

... and the twentieth  
bear the Tacy Brothers have killed  
with their famous bear dog, old  
"Chaney."

---

Col John D. Sutton, of Braxton  
county, arrived in Pocahontas on  
Tuesday on business connected with  
the Droop Mountain Battlefield State  
Park. Governor Conley has recently  
reappointed the Battle Field Com-  
mission, and retains Col. Sutton as its  
chairman. The Governor also has  
named Mr. Sutton a member of his  
staff, with the rank of Colonel.

---

County Superintendent Flynn has  
called a meeting of the teachers who  
will be present in connection with the

GA: SEPTEMBER 27 1928

## W. DAVIS ASKS SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR

is circulated in West Virginia  
ernor Alfred E. Smith of New  
d the New York City and  
emocratic organizations were  
W. Davis in 1924

prohibition or any other  
does not need an official

"I understand the  
made in some quarters  
cratic organization is

Smith carried the  
against Theodore  
I lost it to Cool-  
so many things  
fact, without im-  
tion or inaction on  
nor Smith or the  
ations. The out-  
the great personal  
Governor Smith  
the City and State  
is based on con-  
admiration for his  
of the people. It  
State for him four  
a doubt it will carry  
again next Novem-

the campaign, I enjoy-  
support and assistance.  
sure that I had the  
organization in the Is-  
an, to which the term  
is usually applied,  
of the organization  
oroughs of New York  
hout the State.  
proof of this may be  
et that while the total  
both parties in the five  
ing the City of Great-  
increased from 1920 to  
26,000 votes (speaking  
era) I received in the  
ork 144,000 more votes  
cast for the National  
while President Cool-  
180,000 less than had  
President Harding. In  
New York as a whole I  
0 votes more than were  
National Ticket in 1920,  
it Coolidge received

any enrolled Democrats  
or to vote the National  
is was true not only in  
om West but throughout

Republican leaders of this country he  
ought to vote for Al Smith. The  
Republican did not say he would not.

## DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLE

Salem, Virginia.  
September 10, 1928.

Dear Sir:

I write to thank you for your ac-  
count of the battle of Droop Moun-  
tain and your very interesting and  
beautiful description of the country.  
My pleasure in reading your valuable  
article is brought about by the fact  
that I was a participant, being a  
member of the 22nd. Virginia Infant  
ry from Kanawha county.

There were three infantry compa-  
nies from Kanawha county: The  
Border riflemen under Captain A. R.  
Barbee and the Kanawha Riflemen  
under Captain George S. Patton. At  
the organization of the 22nd at  
White Sulphur Springs in 1861 these  
two companies were absorbed in that  
regiment and Patton was made colo-  
nel. Captain Barbee was made Lt.  
Colonel. Captain S. A. Miller, a  
prominent lawyer from Charleston  
was made Quarter Master. He held  
this position until 1862 when he was  
elected from the Kanawha District  
to the Confederate Congress. Upon  
his resignation I was commissioned  
in his place and held that rank until  
the close of the war.

During the battle I was with Gen-  
eral Echols on an eminence on the  
right of the road overlooking the  
battlefield. Your account of the  
battle was quite true as I understand  
it from reports and my own observa-  
tion.

This letter may mean little to you  
but it was prompted by the very  
friendly spirit that preaded your  
article.



# Arrangements Completed For Fourth July Celebration At Droop Mountain

Committees appointed to make arrangements for the Fourth of July Celebration at Droop Mountain State Park have completed their work, and have everything in tip-top shape for one of the biggest celebrations ever held in the county.

The athletic committee, composed of Kerth Nottingham, S. Reid Moore, Austin Sharp and Clifford Hill, have arranged for athletic games for both morning and afternoon.

Music for the day will be furnished by the Durbin Band, and singing clubs from various parts of the county are expected to be there in full force.

Droop Mountain Battlefield Park was dedicated last year when more than 10,000 people from Pocahontas and nearby counties gathered for a Fourth of July Celebration. Since that time few improvements have been made in the grounds. It is hoped that the celebration this year will arouse renewed interest sufficient to push the park to completion.

The following committees selected to carry out the program have been working on the program for more than two months, and have completed

arrangements for one of the biggest and best celebrations ever staged in this section.

**General Committee**—George Edgar, R. S. Hickman and J. A. McLaughlin, and Hevener Dilley.

**Reception Committee**—Judge S. H. Sharp, Chairman.

**Police Committee**—American Legion, State Police.

**Speakers, Music, Program**—J. A. McLaughlin, R. S. Hickman, George P. Edgar, Hevener Dilley.

**Grounds Committee**—J. K. Marshall, Chairman, H. W. Beard, D. M. Callison, George Edgar, Pete Hollandsworth, W. P. Kershner, E. P. Hendrick.

**Battlefield Committee**—Andrew Price, Chairman.

**Concessions Committee**—J. A. McLaughlin, R. S. Hickman, George P. Edgar, Hevener Dilley.

**Publicity Committee**—C. W. Price, Chairman, W. G. Lancaster, Vernon East.

**Basket Dinner Committee**—Everybody.

**Athletics Committee**—Clifford Hill,

(Continued on page 2)

years.

New Chancery Suits  
State of W. Va., vs. 10  
land, Sallie Hurst and  
law.

State of W. Va., vs.  
poles of land and G. D. Du  
Ed Freeman and Andrew  
Joseph I. Bowers and others  
A. P. Edgar, admr. vs. Ad  
and others.

## GRADUATES

Miss Ruby May Haman  
with honors with the one  
and eighty-six graduates at  
Teachers College, June 22.  
been employed to teach on  
large school systems at Cla  
this winter.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE

Mr. Leonard Tucker Buffn  
and Miss Hulda Florida C  
18.

Mr. Isaac Franklin Gark  
Miss Helen Dorothy Garry, 1

Mr. Ollie Bennett Weeks,  
Miss Mary Lois Smith 18.

## PREACHES HERE

Dr. Henry W. McLaughlin,  
mond, Va., director of C  
Church Work, preached at the  
linton Presbyterian Church S  
morning, June 16. Dr. Mc  
lin is a former resident of this

*Camp Price*

*By Mrs. W. H. M. - 5 -  
Educational Substation  
Camp Price  
from Research*

WILDERNESS   BECOMES   PARK

Boys do Great Work in a Year's Time

One year ago Droop Mountain Battlefield was a wilderness.

There were a few monuments and graves, that for many years had been neglected. Two small signs along the road were all that told travelers that an important Civil War battle had been fought here.

On July 29, 1935 a CCC Company, 2598, located here and within a few weeks there was a great change. This change is still going on. Some of the work has been completed but a great deal more is yet to be done. When travelers now go along Route #219, and get near the Battle Field, they first notice the beautiful log fence that outlines the park. As they drive on down the road, the log portals are seen. We think they are the most *beautiful* entrances to a CCC camp in the state. Good roads lead through these portals and into first, the picnic area. This area has been cleared of underbrush, but all of nature's beauty has been left. Picnic tables, shelters, ovens, and toilets have been constructed throughout the park area. All of these conveniences have been built out of material of a rustic nature.

One year ago Briery Knob was just a beautiful mountain to gaze at; an expanse of wilderness cutting off all probability of ascension. Today a road will take the traveler within a short distance of the fire tower and to all of the glory and beauty that nature has so bountifully bestowed upon our state, especially in this section. From the tower on Briery knob, one can see all of the surrounding country and even some distance into the state of Virginia.

*Camp Price*

*By Mr. Workman - 5 -  
Educational Supervisor  
Camp Price  
From Research notes  
on Camp Price*

WILDERNESS   BECOMES   PARK

Boys do Great Work in a Year's Time

One year ago Droop Mountain Battlefield was a wilderness.

There were a few monuments and graves, that for many years had been neglected. Two small signs along the road were all that told travelers that an important Civil War battle had been fought here.

On July 29, 1935 a CCC Company, 2598, located here and within a few weeks there was a great change. This change is still going on. Some of the work has been completed but a great deal more is yet to be done. When travelers now go along Route #219, and get near the Battle Field, they first notice the beautiful log fence that outlines the park. As they drive on down the road, the log portals are seen. We think they are the most *beautiful* entrances to a CCC camp in the state. Good roads lead through these portals and into first, the picnic area. This area has been cleared of underbrush, but all of nature's beauty has been left. Picnic tables, shelters, ovens, and toilets have been constructed throughout the park area. All of these conveniences have been built out of material of a rustic nature.

One year ago Briery Knob was just a beautiful mountain to gaze at; an expanse of wilderness cutting off all probability of ascension. Today a road will take the traveler within a short distance of the fire tower and to all of the glory and beauty that nature has so bountifully bestowed upon our state, especially in this section. From the tower on Briery knob, one can see all of the surrounding country and even some distance into the state of Virginia.

Foot paths have been constructed in the park leading the traveler to the different spots of interest in the park. All of the graves have been carefully outlined with rocks, the old breastworks have been restored and paths lead to all of the monuments, and throughout the park area. Thousands of trees have been planted by the enrollees, principally Spruce, hemlock, whitepine and walnut. In time these trees will add much to the scenic beauty of the park.

Within a few weeks, another beauty spot in the park will be open to the public. This is the lookout house on the point east of camp, overlooking the Greenbrier Valley. When completed, this log observation tower will afford visitors the best scenic view in this vicinity,

The system of roads of the park are very well constructed and one can now drive to all of the points of interest, entering one portal and going out the other. All of the work in the park has been done by the CCC boys under the able direction of Supt. Kelley and the following foresters: Bruce Conrad, L. A. Remage Joe McMillion, Charles Hanrahan, Arthur Sharp, Joe White, Harry Gun, F. H. Wilfong and M. L. Lilly.

Camp Price and the entire park are always open to visitors, and on weekends or holidays, enrollees will be glad to point out the points of interest, both historical and scenic. If you have not yet visited the park, come and see it.



Foot paths have been constructed in the park leading the traveler to the different spots of interest in the park. All of the graves have been carefully outlined with rocks, the old breastworks have been restored and paths lead to all of the monuments, and throughout the park area. Thousands of trees have been planted by the enrollees, principally Spruce, hemlock, whitepine and walnut. In time these trees will add much to the scenic beauty of the park.

Within a few weeks, another beauty spot in the park will be open to the public. This is the lookout house on the point east of camp, overlooking the Greenbrier Valley. When completed, this log observation tower will afford visitors the best scenic view in this vicinity,

The system of roads of the park are very well constructed and one can now drive to all of the points of interest, entering one portal and going out the other. All of the work in the park has been done by the CCC boys under the able direction of Supt. Kelley and the following foresters: Bruce Conrad, L. A. Remage Joe McMillion, Charles Hanrahan, Arthur Sharp, Joe White, Harry Gun, P. H. Wilfong and M. L. Lilly.

Camp Price and the entire park are always open to visitors, and on weekends or holidays, enrollees will be glad to point out the points of interest, both historical and scenic. If you have not yet visited the park, come and see it.



# POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-11-

SHRADER, B. F. -----	Co. I. 25th.	Va. Regiment.
SYMS, Josiah -----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
SHINABERRY, Isaac -----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
SHARP, Morris -----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
SCALES, Michael -----	Co. D. 14th.	" "
SMITH, Isaac B. -----	Co. D. 14th.	" "
Taylor, Jacob -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
TAYLOR, Wm. -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
TRACY, Geo. W. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
TRACY, Jas. A. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
TRACY, Wm. -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
THOMAS, Jno. W. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
THOMAS, French -----	Co. D. 14th.	" "
TAYLOR, Jas. -----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
VARNER, Jno. P. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
VARNER, John -----	Co. 19th.	" "
VARNER, David A. -----	Co. I. 25th.	" "
VANRENNAN, John -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
WOODDELL, F. Clark -----	Co. F. 11th.	" "
WOODDELL, Adam A. -----	Co. A. 62nd.	" "
WOODDELL, Wm. Warwick -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WOODDELL, Andrew J. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WOODDELL, Aaron -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WARWICK, Peter H. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WARWICK, John R. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WARWICK, Jas. W. -----	Co. G. 11th.	" "

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-12-

WANLESS, Jas W. -----	Co. G. 31st.	Va. Regiment.
WANLESS, Stephen -----	Co. I. 19th.	" "
WOODDELL, Jacob -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
WALTON, Frank -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
WILMOTH, Wm. L. -----	-Co. I. 25th.	" "
WAUGH, Levi -----	-Co. I. 25th.	" "
WOLFENBARGER, Robt. -----	Cp. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, John -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, John M. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Elisha -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Emanuel -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Samuel -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Wm. G. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Henry -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Daniel -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, Jonas -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
WILFONG, David -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
WILFONG, John -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "
Yeager, Wm. A. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
YEAGER, Henry A. -----	Co. G. 31st.	" "
YOUNG, Geo. -----	Co. G. 11th.	" "
WOODDELL, Preston -----	Co. F. 19th.	" "

This list was made up by Mr. T. S. McNeel and checked with a list from the Pocahontas Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

majority of which shall rule.

2. The Court Martial shall consist of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the company.

Looking around in the court house for something to print. I came upon some old papers in the hand writing of General William Skeen, which gave the roster of "The Pocahontas Rescues." an infantry company organized when war threatened between the states, back in 1860. I print it herewith. Also the constitution and by-laws.

The company was mustered in on Saturday, May 13, 1861, and marched on that day to defend the sacred soil of Virginia from invasion by Federal forces in the northwest.

They met the invaders at Philippi, Harbours County, and had no luck in repelling them.



On Monday January 13, eleven volunteers from Pocahontas County took bus for Clarksburg where they were inducted into the army service. They were

334-V-6 Bert H. Waugh  
334-V-7 Jacob Woodrow Shinn  
berris.

334-V-11 Wayne Geiger  
341-V-12 Jacob Gene Lousy  
130-V-13 Ralph Leon Long  
V-14 Wm. Raymond Howers  
V-15 Howard James Kelley  
718-V-16 Roy J. Houchin  
421-V-19 Joseph Leonard Moses, Jr.  
10-V-21 Arch Waybright  
694-V-22 Norman Wilson Phillips

On Thursday, January 16, another soldier went out to Clarksburg under the selective service. In the person of 345-V-2 Thurl William Gary.

In about five hours the young volunteers were in Clarksburg at the induction station. They will be sent from there to army posts to be thoroughly and properly trained for our own protection should war be forced upon us. Naturally I was interested in the going out of a company of volunteers eighty years ago from this County. This company the Pocahontas Rescuers, took about a week to march eighty miles, to reach war in the raw. So—

Master roll of the "Pocahontas Rescuers" mustered into service on May 18th, 1861.

Captain, Stofer, D. A. 1 pr gloves, 25 b

Lieutenant C. J. I. Skeen, b  
O. Sergeant, Sarker, D. W. C.  
M. Sergeant, Poby, Walter E., b  
Sergeant, W. H.

Private, Allen, James  
Private, Andrew C.  
Private, T. L.

Private, P. B.  
Private, J. G.  
Private, J. H.

Private, W. H. b

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Private, W. H.

Moriarty, Patrick, pr shoes, b  
McLaughlin, James H., b  
McLaughlin, Hugh  
Moun, Michael, b  
Moore, Levi  
Mitchell, Sylvester, b  
Piles, Wm. L.

Piles, John  
Pence, John H.  
Swadley, James  
Smith, Lewis, b  
Siver, Cain H., 1 shirt \$1 25

Slavens, Wm. W.

Serbert, Lanty L.

Shannon, James, b

Sharp, Martin B.

Varner, Daniel A., b

Whollihan, Michael

Whollihan, Patrick

Waugh, Levi, b

Weaver, Charles W., 1 pr gloves, 25 cents, b

Weaver, Robert L., b

"b" signifies that they have received blankets.

The Pocahontas Rescuers marched from Huntersville about 10 a. m. on May 18, 1861. A large crowd of ladies and gentlemen were present and at the moment of marching hardly an eye that was not wet with tears. Many gentlemen and ladies accompanied us to the Bridge. Then the Rev. Mr. Fisherty addressed the crowd and all wearily bowed the knee in the public road while he fervently addressed a prayer in behalf of those marching and of the parents and friends left behind. Halted at night in front of William Gibson's and the company were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, John and John B. Hannah and I. M. Hogsett.

Sunday 19th—After the company attended church at I. M. Hogsett's and heard a patriotic sermon from Rev. Flaghty, they marched to J. Varner's. Just as the company arrived the Cavalry under Captain McNeel came in sight. They were received with all honor. The company then heard a sermon from Rev. J. E. Moore and were dismissed and entertained by Jno. Varner, Josiah Herold, Colonel Gatewood at Big Spring, John Rath-Cavalry and Company. Then across the Mountain to Marshall's. Rain during the evening and all night.

Monday 20th—March resumed at 12 a. m. Halted an hour at J. W. Marshall's and marched to Jacob Conrad's; 15 staying overnight at John Conrad's a few going with John McLaughlin, b to Snyder's and the rest quartered upon Jacob Conrad. Rained at intervals all day.

Constitution Of The Company

Article 1 This company shall be known by the name of Pocahontas Rescuers.

Article 7 The regular musters of the said company shall be held on the

first Saturday in the month of April, May, June, August, September and October and the July muster shall be held on the 4th day of the month, save when the 4th happens to fall on Sunday, when it shall be held on the 5th.

Article 3—All fines assessed against commissioned officers for failure to attend muster shall be \$5 00; non-commissioned officers \$2 50; privates \$1 25.

Article 4—All fines assessed shall be for the benefit of the company, to be disbursed whenever the amount of \$20 or more shall be found in the hands of the treasurer unappropriated, by a vote of the Company. The majority ruling, if it is considered practicable.

Article 5—This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time by vote of two thirds concurring at a regular meeting, when a majority is present.

Article 6—There shall be a president, secretary and treasurer chosen by the company, who shall hold their office for one year, whose duties shall be those usually performed by such officers.

Article 7—A majority of the Company may at any regular meeting elect honorary members, who shall be come honorary members of this Company thereupon, by paying to the Treasurer, the sum of three dollars each.

#### BY-LAWS

1. The board for the trial of offenses and non-attendance of members at musters and all other delinquencies shall be tried by a Court Martial, a majority of which shall rule.

2. The Court Martial shall consist of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the company.

Looking around in the court house for something to print. I came upon some old papers in the hand writing of General William Skeen, which gave the roster of "The Pocahontas Rescuers," an infantry company organized when war threatened between the states, back in 1860. I print it herewith. Also the constitution and by-laws.

The company was mustered in on Saturday, May 18, 1861, and marched on that day to defend the sacred soil of Virginia from invasion by Federal forces in the northwest.

They met the invaders at Philippi, Harbours County, and had no luck in repelling them.

*State of West Virginia*

---

*Report of Droop Mountain  
Battlefield Commission*



JOHN D. SUTTON, Chairman

N. F. KENDALL, Secretary

R. F. KIDD

A. L. HELMICK

M. M. HARRISON

Members

---

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

1928

## Report of the Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission respectfully submits the following report: That on the 25th day of January, 1927, House Joint Resolution No. 8, was adopted, which is as follows:

"Providing for the appointment of a commission for the battlefield on Droop Mountain."

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia.*

WHEREAS, One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain in December of 1862, a battle in which West Virginia soldiers, both Union and Confederate, participated; and,

WHEREAS, The intervening years have obliterated many of the scenes of that battle, yet there are still living old soldiers and citizens who can mark out the various positions of the different regiments, battalions and companies that were engaged in the battle; and,

WHEREAS, Droop Mountain is a very high elevation overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, the little levels of Pocahontas County, and the far off peaks of the Alleghany Mountains, making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to appoint a committee of five, three from the House and two from the Senate, whose duty it will be to look over the battlefield, temporarily mark the battle lines, and secure all necessary information from the old soldiers and citizens yet living in the community, that everything authentic may be preserved for future generations. The committee shall ascertain the owners of the land upon which the battle was fought and take a conditional option on some part of such land, of not less than fifty acres, at a price that seems reasonable to the committee.

The members of the committee shall be paid their actual expenses incurred in carrying out this resolution.

Pursuant to the Joint Resolution aforesaid and in compliance therewith, your Excellency on the 21st day of April, 1927, appointed a commission as follows:

From the House of Delegates:

John D. Sutton of Sutton, West Virginia.

N. F. Kendall of Grafton, West Virginia.

M. M. Harrison of Confidence, West Virginia.

From the Senate:

A. L. Helmick of Thomas, West Virginia.

Robert F. Kidd of Glenville, West Virginia.

That your Commission met on the 28th day of April, 1927, in the City of Charleston, and organized by the election of John D. Sutton as chairman and N. F. Kendall as Secretary.



The Commission at its meeting authorized the Chairman to deliver a statement to the public and to the press on the present condition of the battlefield and to point out the most important points in the battle and the most decisive battles waged on West Virginia during the Civil War. The Commission then adjourned.

On the 18th of July the Chairman on the 18th visited the battlefield at Marlinton and on the 19th visited the battlefield at Droop Mountain, accompanied by a number of interested citizens from Marlinton, many of whom were thoroughly acquainted with the battlefield and furnished much valuable information to the Commission.

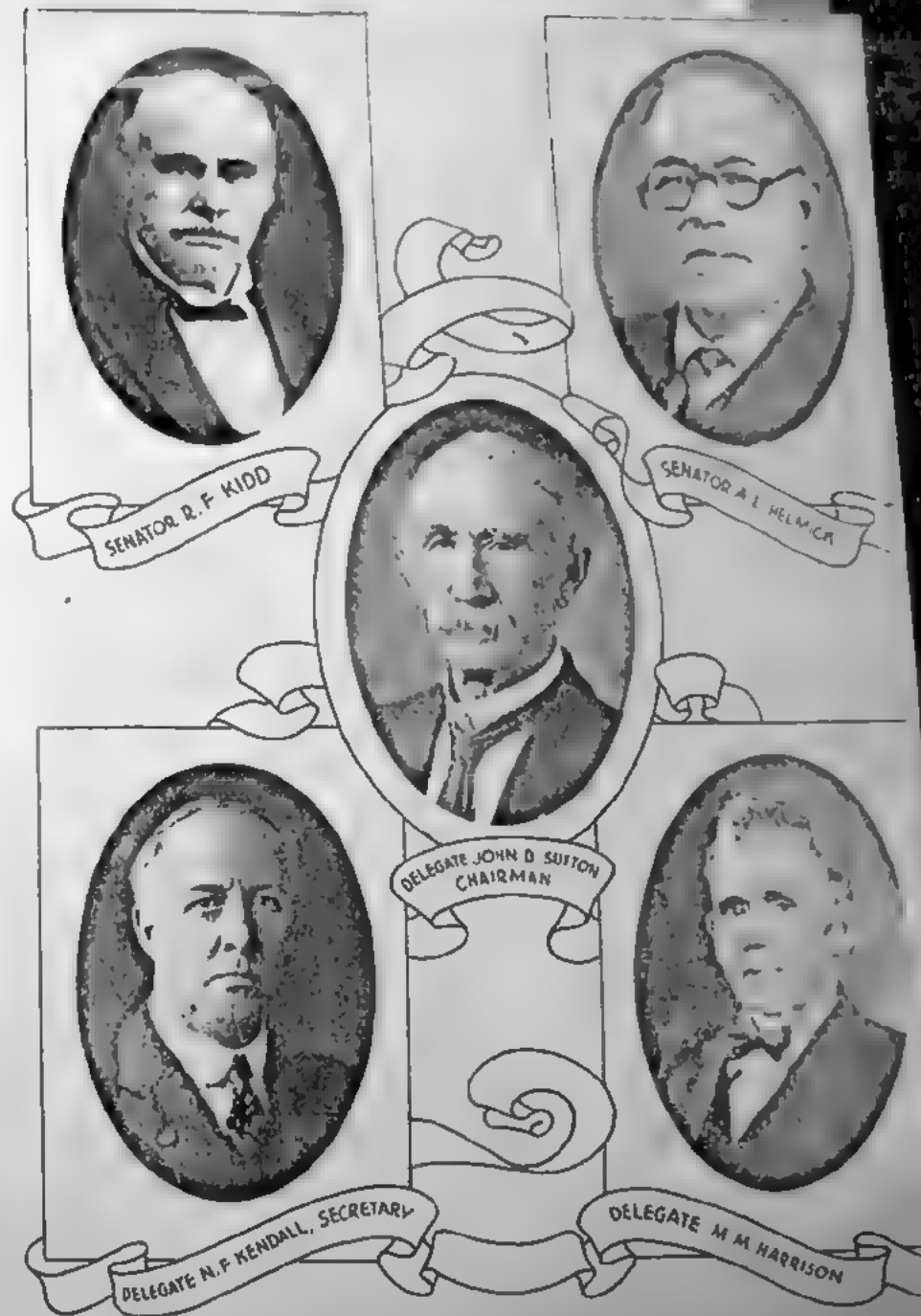
On the 20th the Commission met in session at the residence of Mrs. James B. McCarty, which is located on the farm where the most destructive battle was fought. All of the members of the Commission were present.

The Commission inspected the battlefield and made a fairly complete map of the same. It comprises more than two thousand acres.

Further reports that they stood on the summit of Droop Mountain on a calm, quiet summer day, when the whole country seemed at peace and there was nothing to suggest that forty-four years prior to that time those who wore the blue and the gray were engaged on that hill in one of the most desperate struggles for the mastery of West Virginia, then in its infancy. Each army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. But the North and South ended their bitter struggle and the blood was preserved, and the animosity engendered by the struggle has passed away and universal peace reigns throughout the Republic.

Before us was one of indescribable beauty and grandeur. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile valleys of the Greenbrier and historic Greenbrier River, flowing gently at the base of the rugged mountain. Nowhere in all of our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a great State Park.

After such inspection your Commission decided that a part of the battlefield should be obtained for "A Battlefield State Park" and decided that the ground embraced in the McCarty farm, con-



Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission

of about 150 acres, this covering the land which was made more or less, and such option was obtained for a reservation of fifteen acres around the house, the ground of one-half acre.

The Commission further reports that the Chairman caused to be made a plat of the land, a copy of the option to your Excellency, the matter of making a survey and of locating and marking the boundaries of interest was left to the Chairman.

The Commission further reports that the Chairman caused to be made a plat of the land, showing the location of the different units engaged therein, as well as other valuable information, which plat is filed herewith as part of this report.

The Commission then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman. A date was made by him for a meeting to be held at Marlinton, West Virginia, on the 23rd day of December, 1927, at which meeting all the members were present, except Delegate James A. Kadd. At this meeting the scope of the report of the Commission was discussed and the preparation of the report was delegated to James A. Kadd, with the aid of the Chairman and Secretary. The Commission expressed intention to make the report very complete, and that it should contain the photographs of your Excellency and of the Commission, and further contain the cuts and a brief biographic sketch of the leading officers engaged in that hotly contested battle, as well as photographic views of the field and of the Little Level Valley. That it also contain a picture of the old hospital now standing, and further a recommendation for a lake and flying field, and that it also contain letters and interviews obtained from soldiers engaged in the battle and other interesting incidents connected therewith.

Your Commission further reports that all of the matters set forth are filed herewith or printed in this report and asked to be made part thereof.

The Commission reports that Droop Mountain is a high elevation nearly 1,000 feet above sea level, and contains several high peaks, the land is rolling, and is a limestone soil and the tract situated is about one-half cleared. The woodland contains some valuable timber.

The scenery from this mountain is beautiful; stretching northward to what is known as the Little Levels of Pocahontas County, and a magnificent view of the Alleghany Mountains and the Green-

brier River as it cuts its way through the myriad hills and spurs of the Alleghenies.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and that it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson.

Your Commission further reports that this was the only battle where the forces were composed largely of West Virginia soldiers, and fought on West Virginia soil.

Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, seven from Millpoint and four and one-tenth miles from Hillsboro, and it is also ten miles from Renic station, sixteen miles from Frankfort and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg. Your Commission further reports that Hills Creek, rising at the base of some high mountains, west of Droop Mountain, sinks and passes under Droop Mountain, near the middle of the battlefield, then emerges at the eastern edge where it is called Locust Creek. It flows about two miles to the Greenbrier River.

## Reports Made by Participants

Your Commission sets out herein a partial report made of said battle by the leading officers who participated therein:

### General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. F. W. Thompson; 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong, was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 p. m. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time. "See first formation map."

### Lieut. Col. Scott's Report

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that at about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, at once immediately in front of the breastworks."

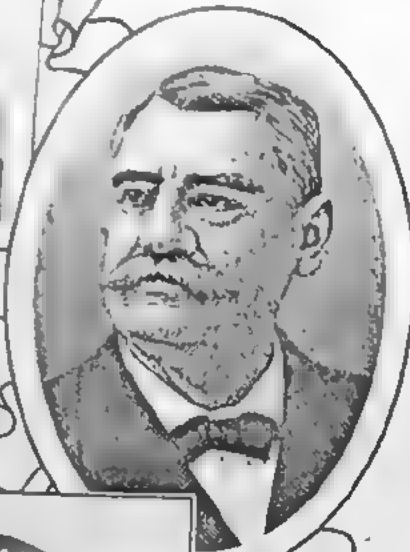
I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally, one of whom has since died, seven severely and five slightly.

### Report of Colonel John Oley

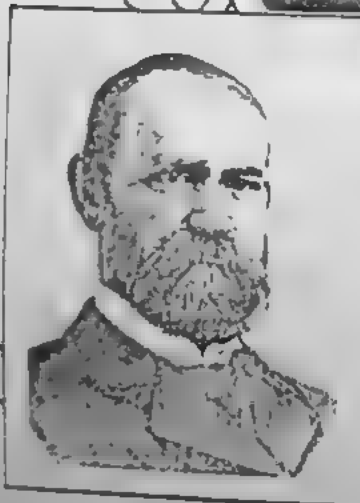
Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear



GEN. WM. L. JACKSON



BRIG. GEN. JOHN ECHOLS



COL. W. P. THOMPSON

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATE TROOPS



companies of the 2nd Battalion. Later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach some companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded the 22nd Virginia. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five companies, fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three companies, fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

#### Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

"When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

"We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

#### Report of Col. Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall, the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

#### Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd, 3rd and 4th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

#### Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the

old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company E, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

#### Letters Bearing Upon the Battle

Brownsville, Fayette County,  
Pennsylvania,  
November 16, 1927.

DEAR SIR:

I saw your inquiry about Colonel Schoonmaker of Pittsburgh, in the *National Tribune* for the week of November 11. In reply I would inform you that he is dead. He died October 11th, eighty-six years of age. He died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis. I was with Colonel Schoonmaker in the Battle of Droop Mountain in the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company E.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

Chapel, W. Va., July 12, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I do not feel that I have health or the strength to meet you at the Droop Mountain Battlefield next week, much as I would love to. I hope you will be able to properly locate the field. If you could find some Confederate soldiers that were in the fight or native citizens who were acquainted might be helpful. As I remember the enemy were stationed in line of battle and we advanced on them. They soon left the patch, as I remember, during the hottest part of the fight. I was near the head of the Company where we joined Company A. Sergeant of Company A—I can't think of his name now—was killed near my side. Wheeler, Milt Rollyson and others were wounded near about the same time. When the enemy fled the company and regiment that were able followed in pursuit, I think, to Lewisburg. I confess that I was more concerned in what was going on than in noting the lay of the land. Please excuse the rambling. Hope you succeed.

Respectfully,

HENRY BENDER.

Coffeeville, Kansas, March 5, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE

Your letter just to hand having been forwarded to me from Chapel. My recollection of the Droop Mountain Battle is indistinct. I think both regiments marched up the same road until near the summit, the 28th in the lead, near the top filed to the left until both regiments were the same distance on the mountain, when we faced and marched toward the enemy and soon found them. Our formation was Companies A, F, D, and C, after which I am not sure, only Company B was the extreme left. I do not remember any troops on our right. I am only guessing from my recollection, the engagement began not later than 10 A. M. and ended by noon, or before. I do not remember that there was a skirmish line. I always thought our company struck the most formidable point in the enemy's line. I would love to go over the field but do not now feel that I will be able. Anything I can do will be cheerfully done. With best wishes,

HENRY BENDER.

NOTE: Captain Bender was mistaken as to the time that the battle ended.

Progress, W. Va., April 30, 1927.

DEAR MR. SUTTON

Your letter received the 19th inst.

The battle of Droop Mountain began about 10 o'clock A. M. and lasted about one hour, as well as I remember.

I belonged to Company F, 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. My position battle ranks. General William Jackson's troops were in front, and I do not remember about the skirmish line. Ninety-two prisoners were captured, and do not know the number killed.

My health will not permit my attending a meeting of the committee.

Very truly yours,

J. G. ENCK.

NOTE: He was mistaken as to the length of the engagement.

Cottageville, W. Va., May 9, 1927.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND:

I received your letter some time ago and was certainly glad to



THE 28th WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTED INFANTRY LATER CHANGED TO 7TH WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY

...and I was not a soldier but my health in  
...several weeks. Now, as I am feel-  
...giving you the informa-

...in front of Joe Beard's at  
...next morning at dawn we broke  
...over a low gap in the moun-  
...the Confederates, on the  
...We were led by Austin Brown, Ike  
...former residents of that locality. Before  
...of the mountain we ran into the Con-  
...The battle now begins, it being about ten  
...West Virginia was in front, followed by the 28th  
...the Confederates we faced south. The  
...top of the mountain southward.

...near the pike, 60 or 80 yards distance from it,  
...The Confederate who shot me was  
...was resting on a log. He shot me as I was  
...and disarm him. The other boys were wounded  
...the place where the pike crosses the moun-  
...sometime between twelve and one o'clock.  
...wounded were carried away to Joe Beard's home.  
...a temporary hospital.

I am the only 10th West Virginia soldier left in Jackson County.  
Are W. P. and Silas Morrison still living?

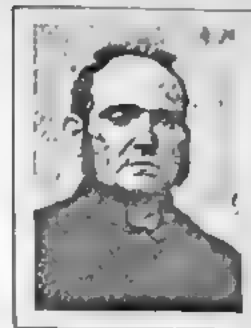
I was glad to hear that Captain Bender was still alive, and  
to know that you are well and strong. I have always felt  
to you for saving my life on Bolivar Heights. As regards  
...we are all well, my children are scattered, some being  
...and some in West Virginia, while my eldest son lives in  
Florida. I would like to see you once more and talk over our old  
war days. Come over to Cottageville with Eugene Slaughter  
sometime. Drive over from Sutton. My faith is clear and strong  
in Christ and for a home in Heaven.

Write me soon again. Best regards to you and family.

Your old comrade,

JOHN A. BLAGO.

NOTE: The 28th Ohio was formed in line of battle and was  
engaged with the enemy when the 10th West Virginia came up.  
See Colonel Moor's official report.



A. W. GREGG  
CHAPLAIN  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



HENRY H. TIES  
MAJOR  
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY

SOME PARTICIPANTS  
IN THE BATTLE OF  
DROOP MOUNTAIN



JOHN D. SUTTON  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. BAXTER  
ORDERLY SGT.  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INF.  
FELL LEADING  
LAST CHARGE

LEUT. HENRY H.  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA.  
PROMOTED  
CAPTAIN  
FOR GALLANT



C. W. ANGEL  
1ST LIEUT. CO. M  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



J. E. SWAAR  
2ND LIEUT. CO. G  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY

for information  
Droop Mountain

The 14th Penn  
8th Ohio Ewing's Battery of 1st  
went around to the right  
was dismounted at the  
to lay down and wait for

14th Pennsylvania, and was wounded  
1864 from which there is four inches  
years old, went to service when I  
at Mooresfield, Virginia, also at Mt.  
finger

GEORGE W. ARISON.

Soldiers Home Hospital, July 14, 1927.

NAME AND ADDRESS

the *National Tribune* that you wished to get in com-  
munication with some survivor of the Battle of Droop Mountain.  
of the 10th West Virginia Regiment Infantry and  
that battle. We were on the right wing of our forces  
as we located the enemy in thick timber we charged and  
them without any casualties on our part, but with heavy loss  
Until we came to an open space where the timber had  
been cut down. There we received a galling fire, and lost a number  
of men, all from one volley. We then took shelter behind logs and  
timber, and that is where Sergeant Bird Curry lost his life. We  
then deployed to the right and routed the Johnnies, and that ended  
the battle.

Yours truly,

L. S. CLOTHIER,  
Co. A, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

Gassaway, W. Va., April 27, 1927.

My Dear Mr. Burton:

I will try and answer you at this late date, as I was away at the  
arrival of your letter, but will now try to do so.

In the morning of the 6th of November, as the day of the battle,

early in the morning, the Union army began to move on the South-  
ern army in the level near hills below, that is coming down from  
Marlinton. They moved down very early. Top shooting began  
about 8 o'clock. Jackson moved his besieged back up on the crown  
of the Droop, and at about 10 o'clock, skirmishing began, very  
lively, beginning on the eastern face of the Droop, continuing  
around southward near the Locust Creek Mill and also north to the  
Black Mountain. General Echols arrived with his force from the  
direction of Lewisburg, between 8 and 9 o'clock, and Colonel Coch-  
ran near the same time, with the 14th Virginia Cavalry. General  
Echols with most of his men occupied the southern part of the  
mountain, but Derrieks Battalion was placed on the north of the  
left wing of W. L. Jackson, and the 14th Cavalry was placed on the  
main top of the main mountain near the turnpike in rear of the  
artillery. General Jackson's artillery was placed north of the  
turnpike. His line of battle continued from the turnpike north-  
ward around to Hills Creek, including the line of Derrieks skir-  
mishers, as stated commenced at about 1 o'clock. Fighting fiercer  
and fiercer began in earnest and ended at or near 4 or 4:30 in the  
evening.

General Averell moved his men very near the top of Droop, the  
men were surprised, but I was not. I told the General but I was too  
late with the news. That is why I was there in the charge to call  
Colonel Derriek to fall back. I lost my horse by it, and was cap-  
tured to boot, but got away before they got off the mountain. I  
belonged to Company B, 26th Virginia Cavalry, W. L. Jackson's  
Brigade. I was a courier and then knew nearly all the southern  
lines of battle.

The regiments in front of the center, east of Droop Mountain,  
that I knew was there was the 14th Pennsylvania, the 8th and 16th  
Cavalry, the 10th West Virginia and 28th Ohio. Those two regi-  
ments done the heavy part of the fighting. All lines that I come in  
contact with that day had skirmish lines. As to prisoners caught  
on either side, I don't remember. But there was forty captured  
when I was. I might be able to be present and attend a meeting  
of the Committee at some time this year, I can't just say.

You must be light on considering or criticising my pencil  
scratching, as my eyes are very bad.

Yours respectfully,

MILTON BUTCHER.

Notes The bones of the horse have been discovered.

## Incidents

Your Commission has tried to so mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the monuments which we have planted and the maps which we have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Colonel Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a rail fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our Chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and they both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. The man who shot Barnett gave his life

BLOODY ANGLE WHERE  
DAXTER FELL INSIDE  
ENEMY'S LINES WHILE  
LEADING HIS COMPANY.  
ALSO SHOWING UPPER  
END OF LAKE.

WHERE THE FEDERAL INFANTRY  
STRUCK THE LEWISBURG PIKE  
AT LOWER END OF LAKE.

Views from Droop Mountain Battlefield



the battle of Droop Mountain. After the battle, a young woman was observed going among the dead and looking intently into the face of each one. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for my husband." She was the guest at the house of Colonel McNeill. She was married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davis, of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unscathed, but was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

Every battle has its tragedies, its heart rending scenes, yet every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the teamsters and ordnance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said "Damned if I know." Under such conditions he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breasting the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens, Private	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swecker, Private	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton, Private	Private	A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj Moore, Private	Private	C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Burkhammer, Private	Private	C	Gunshot wound through left forearm
George Osborn, Corporal	Corporal	C	Gunshot wound through right arm
Franklin Fisher, Private	Private	D	Gunshot wound right thigh, middle third
John Queen, Private	Private	D	Gunshot wound through left shoulder

James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through right arm above elbow
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through little finger
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through right hand
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound in left knee joint
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through right leg near knee
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound right ankle, serious injury
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound top of right shoulder
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left shoulder
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left arm, shot between humerus
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through both arms
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through middle, ring and little fingers
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left leg
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left forearm
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot wound through middle finger right hand
James M. Rankin, Private	G	Gunshot wound in abdomen, flesh wound
James M. Rankin, Private	G	Gunshot wound in left thigh
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot wound in right side, perforating bowels
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot wound in left thigh, lower third, flesh wound

#### KILLED

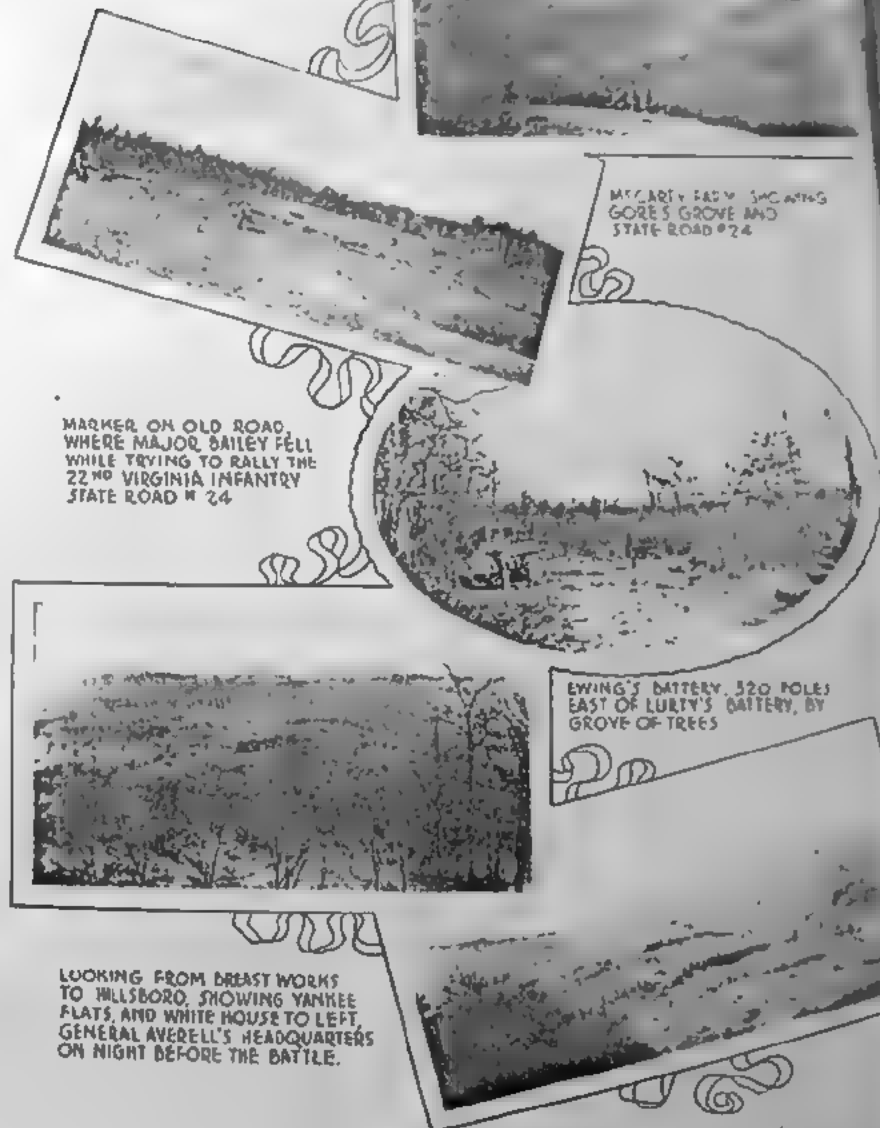
James M. Rankin, Private	A	Gunshot in head
James M. Rankin, Private	A	Gunshot mortally
James M. Rankin, Private	D	Gunshot in head
James M. Rankin, Private	E	Gunshot mortally
James M. Rankin, Private	F	Gunshot in bowels
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot mortally
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot mortally
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot mortally
James M. Rankin, Private	H	Gunshot mortally

F killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly, Company F, killed.

Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battlefield great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no greater attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battlefield, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living of either army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State,

LOOKING FROM  
DROOP MOUNTAIN



Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

at a recent meeting of the Historical Society on the subject of the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for the purpose of securing to the land on which the battle was fought the work that has been done and the improvement and beautifying our State; and that funds be appropriated for the work that the Commission

The objects of the Society are hereby extended to have given the Battlefield Commis-

That the memory of the brave men, of both sides, in the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and that the State should no longer neglect this in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of heroes, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the

The Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile long, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should also be obtained and that an appropriation of \$15,000.00 may be made for the payment of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement as rapidly as possible, and we would further recommend that the marketable timber on the lands be sold and that the ridge, hereinbefore referred to, should be made accessible for flying machines, and also that the water of the lake should be impounded; and that suitable driveways and other attractive features be prepared as early as possible and that ultimately a great park may be established and maintained that would be equal at least to those in other states.

Your Commission would further recommend that your Excellency call the attention of the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schoonmaker, and the 26th Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battlefield that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

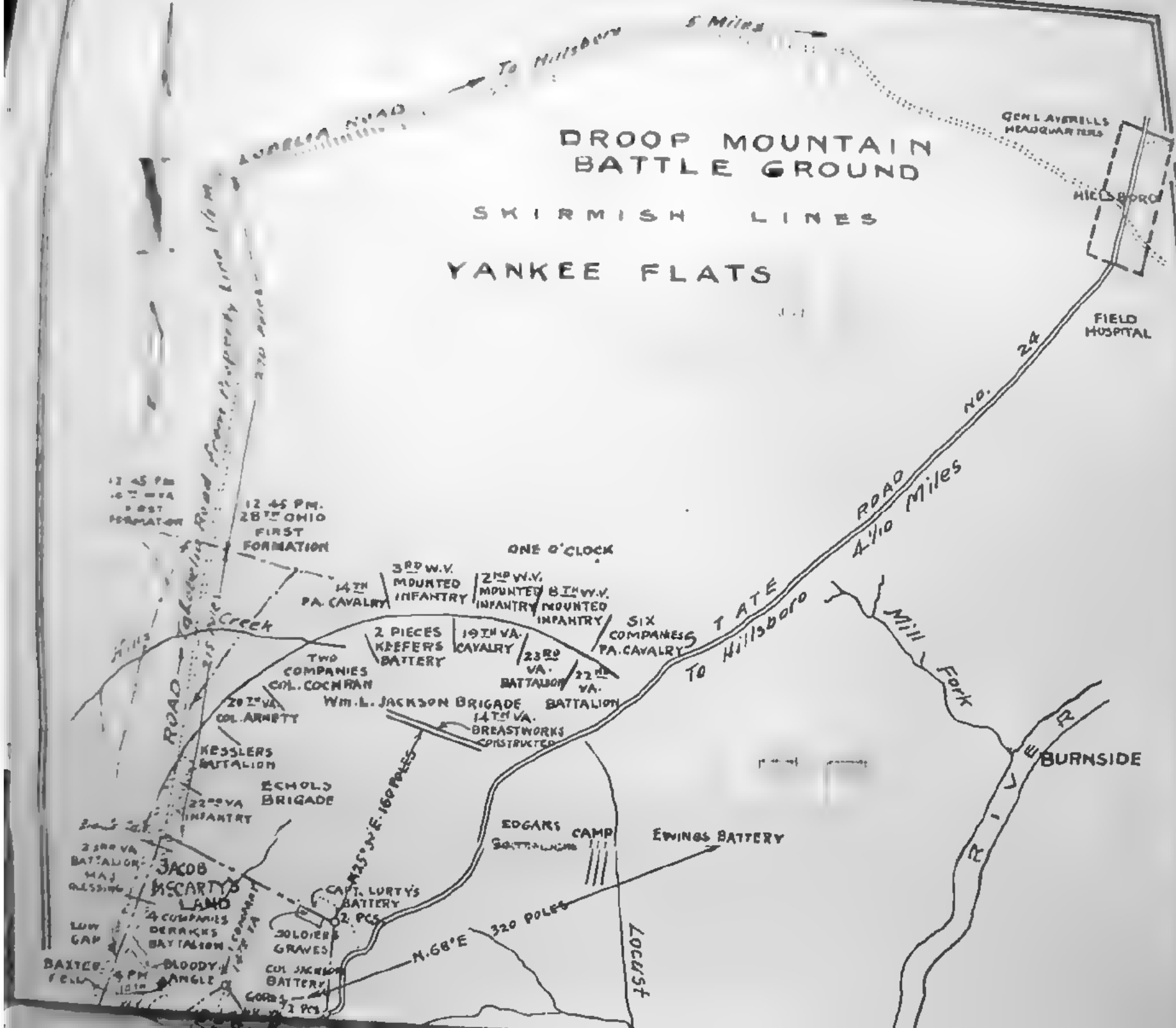
JNO. D. SUTTON,  
N. F. KENDALL,  
R. F. KIDD,  
M. M. HARRISON,  
A. L. HELMICK.

## The Droop Mountain Battle

By John D. Sutton

From Indian invasions and Virginia's dependence on her eastern brethren for her financial support, she had to look more to their financial support. It was not long until those west of the mountains found themselves in a position of dependence on their eastern brethren. Tobacco, the staple of the east, raised by slave labor, whilst those west of the mountains lived for many years upon furs and skins, and engaged in the trade. And as it has been said, "the taxation began to be agitated. The states apportioned very largely from their equal share of the tax, and very largely the political affairs of the state were in the hands of the eastern portion of the state was powerless. Their only opportunity of representation. The Civil War afforded them that opportunity. When the war came on, 32,000 of the young men of West Virginia joined the Union forces. Though they were living in a state where the great majority refused to answer the call of Virginia, and when the 20th of June, 1863, came, and West Virginia was admitted as a state into the union, the defenders of the state were determined to sustain and defend the state at whatever cost of blood and treasure. The south was as fully determined to retain the territory of the state, and to prevent the rendering of the state—a state for which we all have the most profound respect and respect. But a sacrifice had to be made and the battle was joined—a battle of separation. The best blood of Virginia and West Virginia, men who had met on many bloody battlefields prior to the great Battle of Droop Mountain, soldiers inured to hardships and dangers, not soldiers of fortune, not soldiers for spoil, but men in whose breasts was a living principle, a principle implanted in their youth by their fathers. At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on November 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Wm. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force near Mill Point on the morning of the 6th and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there

10.158 - CLARK & WARRERS INC ENGINEERS & GEOLOGISTS - LITTLE ROCK





12:45 P.M.  
10<sup>TH</sup> W.V.A.  
FIRST  
FORMATION

12:45 P.M.  
28<sup>TH</sup> OHIO  
FIRST  
FORMATION

ONE O'CLOCK

14<sup>TH</sup> PA. CAVALRY  
3<sup>RD</sup> W.V. MOUNTED INFANTRY  
2<sup>ND</sup> W.V. MOUNTED INFANTRY  
8<sup>TH</sup> W.V. MOUNTED INFANTRY

SIX COMPANIES  
PA. CAVALRY

2 PIECES  
KEEFERS  
BATTERY

19<sup>TH</sup> VA.  
CAVALRY

23<sup>RD</sup>  
VA.  
BATTALION

22<sup>ND</sup>  
VA.

TWO COMPANIES  
COL. COCHRAN

WM. L. JACKSON BRIGADE

14<sup>TH</sup> VA.  
BREASTWORKS  
CONSTRUCTED

20<sup>TH</sup> VA.  
COL. ARNETT

KESSLERS  
BATTALION

ECHOLS  
BRIGADE

22<sup>ND</sup> VA.  
INFANTRY

23<sup>RD</sup> VA.  
BATTALION  
MAJ.  
BLESSING

JACOB  
MC CARTY'S  
LAND

4 COMPANIES  
DERRICKS  
BATTALION

LOW  
GAP

BAXTER  
FELL

4 P.M.  
10<sup>TH</sup>  
W.V.A.

BLOODY  
ANGLE

SOLDIERS  
GRAVES

COL. JACKSON  
BATTERY

GOES  
2 PCS

CAPT. LURTY'S  
BATTERY

2 PCS

EDGARS  
CAMP  
BATTALION

EWINGS BATTERY

N. 25° E. 160 POLES

N. 68° E. 320 POLES

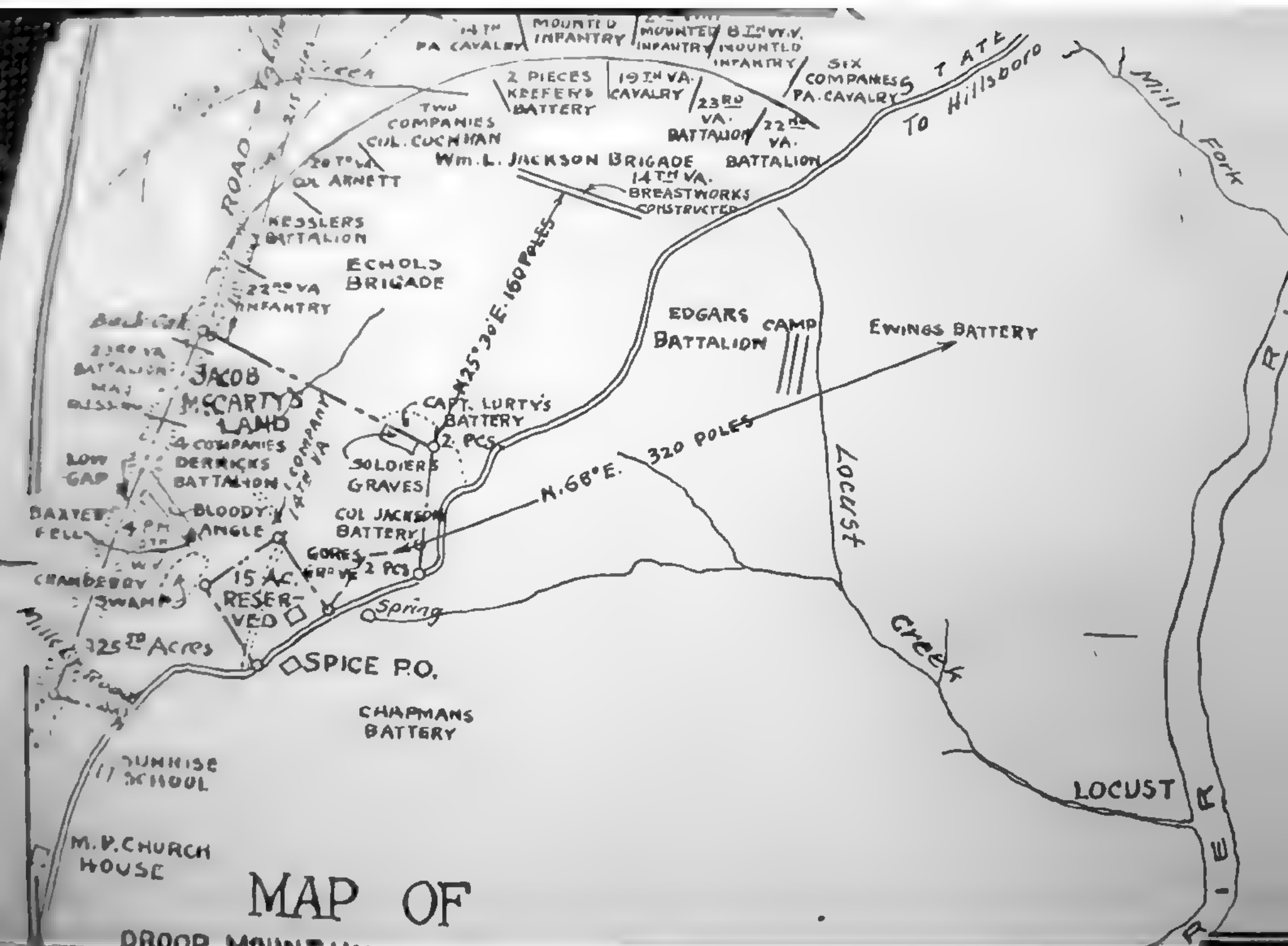
LOCUST

TO HILLSBO  
TATE

RODOLPH ROAD

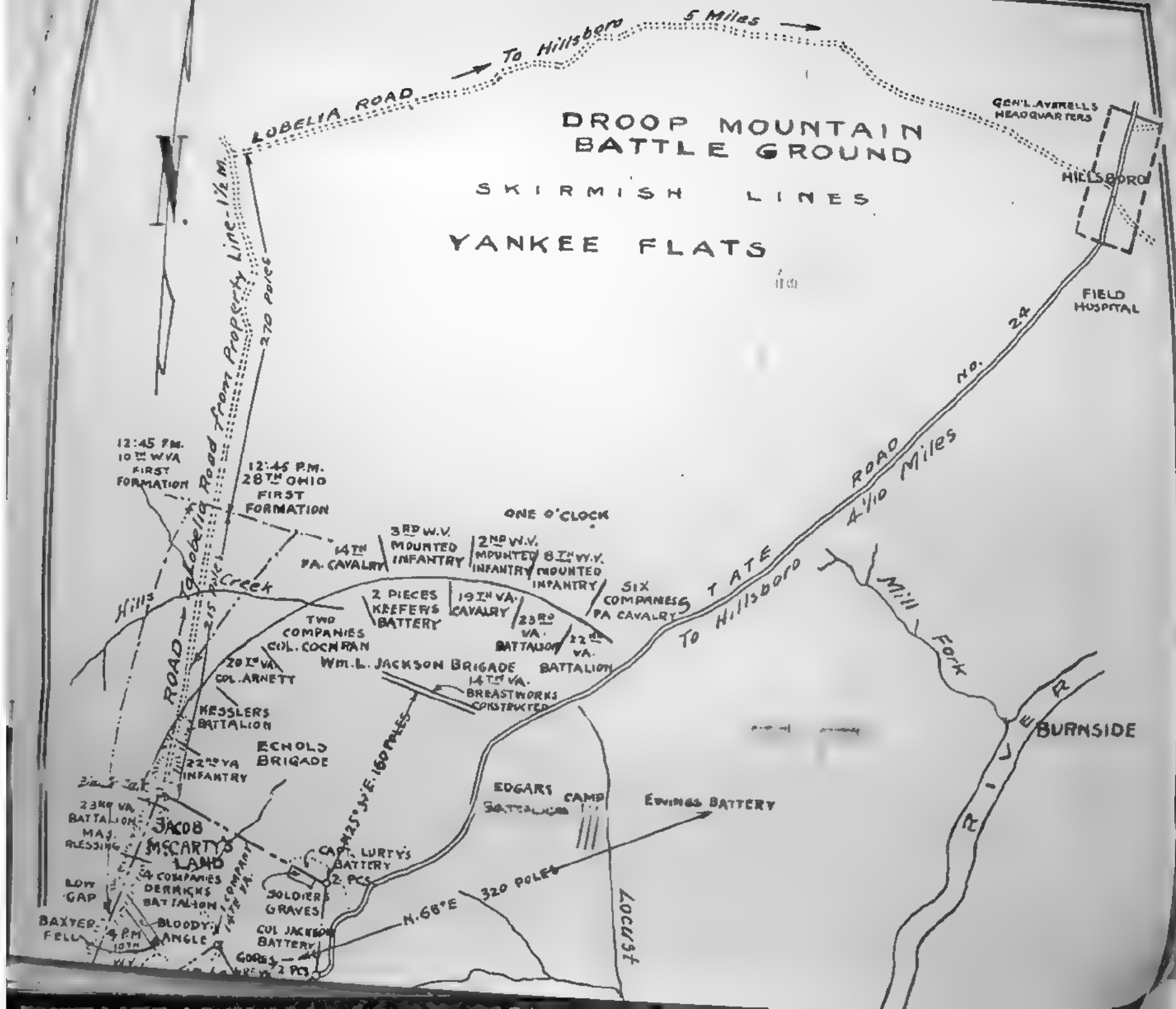
HILLS

Creek



# MAP OF

DROOD MOUNTAIN



camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 a. m. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inft. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 28th Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principle fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 200, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

TEMPERARY HOSPITAL  
NOW SPACE POSTOFFICE  
BATTLE DIED HERE  
NOV 7 1863



HOUSE WHICH  
WAS BURNED  
DIED HERE



TREE UNDER WHICH  
GEN. ROBT. E. LEE SLEPT  
NIGHT OF SEPT. 15, 1861  
NEAR DROOP MOUNTAIN



AVERELL'S HOSPITAL-  
BEARD'S RESIDENCE  
AT HILLSBORO.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

elegant fighting force. These units were concentrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate general to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched and protected their lines by felling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Virginia Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of a lack of number on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

Now we come to another phase of the history of Droop Mountain. We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence, that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race, or by the early Indian tribes of America. We read from journals of Capt. Wm. Trent, who says that the Shawnees were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the region east of the Mississippi. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the Six Nations and for half a century they existed in various branches. The Miamis were a powerful nation. It is said they were the only Indians that ever waged a successful war with the Six Nations. The Delaware Nation consisted of five tribal organizations. They were driven by the Six Nations from the Delaware river to the Susquehanna, then to the Monongahela. Kercheval says that the Cutawba and Delaware Indians were said to have been engaged in war when the valley of Virginia was first discovered. Several bloody battles were fought between these tribes on the Potomac. Other battles occurred on South Branch in Hampshire County, and near Franklin, Pendleton County, according to



tradition, a battle occurred between the Indians on Cow Pasture River near Mullhorough in Bath county. We see that near and on every side of Droop Mountain Indian battles occurred, and there is every reason to believe that possibly many battles were fought on the Droop. It was not only a fortress, but a supply of war material rich and inexhaustible.

I am impressed with the thought that in the ages long gone by that some of the western or southern tribes of North America had one of their strong defensive outposts on the Droop Mountain.

There are unmistakable evidences of it in the rich valley at the foot of the mountain where in the rich, level land supplies were abundant and where their warriors could be assembled to a naturally fortified position in the plains at the foot of the Droop Mountain excavations, where thousands of tons of rough-flints have been removed.

And on the top of the mountain in a field by the edge of the lake the ground is covered with spears and arrowheads, a field where the natives have gathered thousands of the Indian handiwork and the chips and spalls to this day cover the ground.

This must have been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest by the side of a lake where the waters flow up cold and sparkling. I imagine in this ancient lake there were countless millions of trout from which these warriors feasted and from the valleys and rivers. And rich hunting ground. Supplies were abundant to feed the warriors, whose duty it was to protect the rich hunting grounds. And this the metropolis of the assembled tribes it is known that in the ages of the past different tribes, fierce and warlike, fought with desperation and relentless fury over the possession of favored territory. For time unknown the tribes of the north and those of the south were at enmity.

Droop Mountain was doubtless one of the strongest strategic position on the spurs of the Allegheny mountains. Droop Mountain points with unmistakable evidence to the metropolis of some powerful and war-like nation and we doubt not that the very ground over which the soldiers of the sixties fought with such courage and daring was one made red with the blood of the savage, a war-like people long since extinct.

The evidence they left is crude but distinct. Let us in the name of a history-loving people, living in the pride of a great age, mark this historic battlefield, dedicated to the freedom of West Virginia, with monuments of granite embellished in art that will forever commemorate the imperishable memory and heroism of the sons of our beloved State.

## Report of the Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission respectfully submits the following report: That on the 25th day of January, 1927, House Joint Resolution No. 8, was adopted, which is as follows:

"Providing for the appointment of a commission for the battlefield on Droop Mountain."

### *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

WHEREAS, One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, on November 2, 1862, a battle in which West Virginia soldiers, both Union and Confederate, participated; and,

WHEREAS, The intervening years have obliterated many of the scars of that battle, yet there are still living old soldiers and citizens who can mark out the various positions of the different regiments, battalions and companies that were engaged in the battle; and,

WHEREAS, Droop Mountain is a very high elevation overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, the little levels of Pocahontas County, and the far off peaks of the Alleghany Mountains, making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to appoint a committee of five, three from the House and two from the Senate, whose duty it will be to look over the battlefield, temporarily mark the battle lines, and secure all necessary information from the old soldiers and citizens yet living in the community, that everything authentic may be preserved for future generations. The committee shall ascertain the owners of the land upon which the battle was fought and take a conditional option on some part of such land, of not less than fifty acres, at a price that seems reasonable to the committee.

The members of the committee shall be paid their actual expenses incurred in carrying out this resolution.

Pursuant to the Joint Resolution aforesaid and in compliance therewith, your Excellency on the 21st day of April, 1927, appointed a commission as follows:

### *From the House of Delegates:*

John D. Sutton of Sutton, West Virginia.

N. F. Kendall of Grafton, West Virginia.

M. M. Harrison of Confidence, West Virginia.

### *From the Senate:*

A. L. Helmick of Thomas, West Virginia.

Robert F. Kold of Glenville, West Virginia.

That your Commission met on the 25th day of April, 1927, in the City of Charleston, and organized by the election of John D. Sutton as chairman and N. F. Kendall as Secretary.

## DROOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

The Commission at this meeting authorized the Chairman to employ a competent engineer to aid and assist in the preparation of the map of the battlefield, showing the most important points in this, one of the fiercest and most decisive battles waged on West Virginia soil during the Civil War. The Commission then adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

Your Commission pursuant to the call of the Chairman on the 18th day of July, 1927, met at Marlinton and on the 19th visited the scene of the battlefield on Droop Mountain, accompanied by quite a number of prominent and interested citizens from Marlinton and Hillsboro—many of whom were thoroughly acquainted with the battlefield and furnished much valuable information to the Commission.

On July 20th, 1927, the Commission met in session at the residence of Mrs. Rebecca B. McCarty, which is located on the farm where the great and destructive battle was fought. All of the members of the Commission were present.

The Commission inspected the battlefield and made a fairly complete survey of the same. It comprises more than two thousand acres of territory.

Your Commission further reports that they stood on the summit of Droop Mountain on a calm, quiet summer day, when the whole surrounding country seemed at peace and there was nothing to indicate that sixty-four years prior to that time those who wore the blue and those clad in the gray were engaged on that hill in one gigantic struggle for the mastery of West Virginia, then in its infancy. Each army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. But the North and South ended their bitter struggle, the Republic was preserved, and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns throughout the Republic.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plain and the famous and historic Greenbrier River, flowing gently at the base of the rugged mountain. Nowhere in all of our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a great State Park.

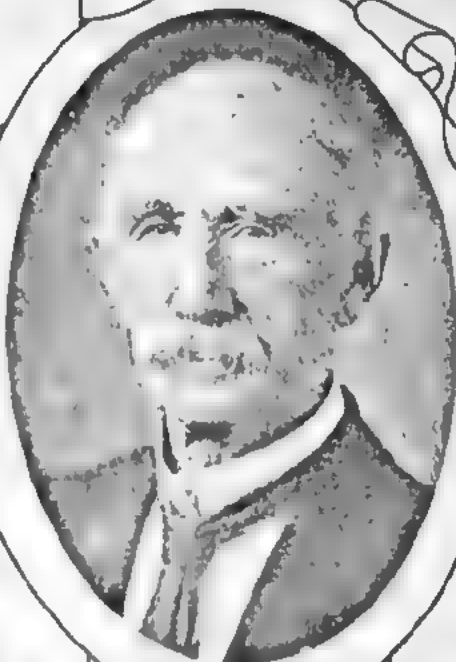
After such inspection your Commission decided that a part of the battlefield should be optioned for "A Battlefield State Park" and decided that the ground embraced in the McCarty farm, con-



SENATOR R.F. KIDD



SENATOR A. L. HELMICK



DELEGATE JOHN D. SUTTON  
CHAIRMAN



DELEGATE N. J. PENNING  
SECRETARY



DELEGATE M. M. HARRISON

sisting of about one hundred and forty-one acres, this covering the spot where the battle was most fiercely waged, and such option was obtained, subject, however to a reservation of fifteen acres around the residence and also the graveyard of one-half acre.

This option is filed herewith and made part of this report and the Secretary was directed to send a copy of the option to your Excellency. The matter of making a survey and of locating and marking the important points of interest was left to the Chairman.

Your Commission further reports that the Chairman caused to be made a map of the said battlefield, showing the location of the battle lines and position of the different units engaged therein, as well as much other valuable information, which plat is filed herewith and made part of this report.

The Commission then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman. A call was made by him for a meeting to be held at Weston, West Virginia, on the 28th day of December, 1927, at which meeting all the members were present, except Delegate Harrison. At this meeting the scope of the report of the Commission was decided upon and the preparation of the report was delegated to Senator Kidd, with the aid of the Chairman and Secretary. It was the expressed intention to make the report very complete, and that it should contain the photographs of your Excellency and of the Commission, and further contain the cuts and a brief biographic sketch of the leading officers engaged in that hotly contested battle, as well as photographic views of the field and of the Little Levels Valley. That it also contain a picture of the old hospital now standing, and further a recommendation for a lake and flying field, and that it also contain letters and interviews obtained from soldiers engaged in the battle and other interesting incidents connected therewith.

Your Commission further reports that all of the matters set forth are filed herewith or printed in this report and asked to be made part thereof.

The Commission reports that Droop Mountain is a high elevation nearly 1,000 feet above sea level, and contains several high peaks, the land is rolling, and is a limestone soil and the tract optioned is about one-half cleared. The woodland contains some valuable timber.

The scenery from this mountain is beautiful, stretching northward is what is known as the Little Levels of Pocahontas County, and a magnificent view of the Alleghany Mountains and the Green-



brier River as it cuts its way through the myriad hills and spurs of the Alleghenies.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and that it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson.

Your Commission further reports that this was the only battle where the forces were composed largely of West Virginia soldiers, and fought on West Virginia soil. .

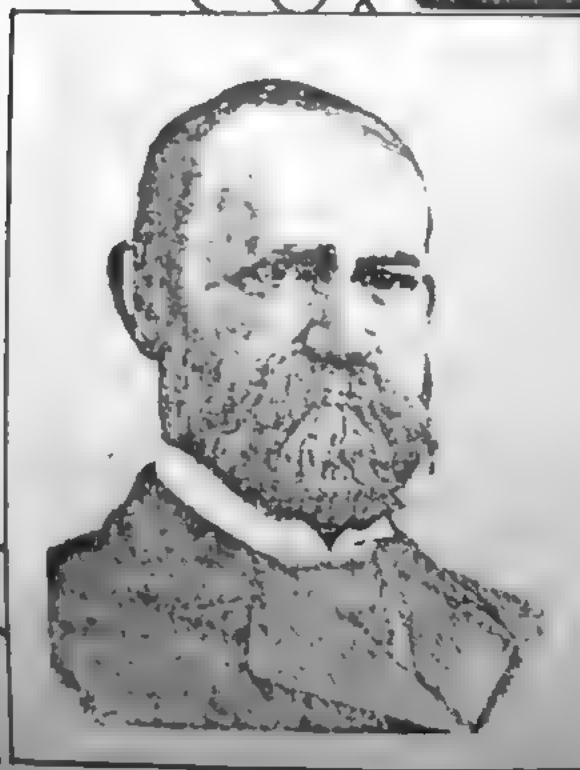
Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, seven from Millpoint and four and one-tenth miles from Hillsboro, and it is also ten miles from Renic station, sixteen miles from Frankfort and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg. Your Commission further reports that Hills Creek, rising at the base of some high mountains, west of Droop Mountain, sinks and passes under Droop Mountain, near the middle of the battlefield, then emerges at the eastern edge where it is called Locust Creek. It flows about two miles to the Greenbrier River.



BRIG. GEN.  
WM. L. JACKSON



BRIG. GEN.  
JOHN ECHOLS



COL. W. P. THOMPSON

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATE TROOPS

## Reports Made by Participants

Your Commission sets out herein a partial report made of said battle by the leading officers who participated therein:

### General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. F. W. Thompson; 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong, was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 p. m. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time. "See first formation map."

### Lieut. Col. Scott's Report

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that at about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, at once immediately in front of the breastworks."

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally, one of whom has since died, seven severely and five slightly.

### Report of Colonel John Oley

8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear

companies of the 23rd Battalion. Later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echols Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

#### **Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion**

"When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

"We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

#### **Report of Col. Thompson**

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall, the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

#### **Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry**

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

#### **Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson**

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the

old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the 'bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

## Letters Bearing Upon the Battle

Brownsville, Fayette County,  
Pennsylvania.

November 16, 1927.

DEAR SIR:

I saw your inquiry about Colonel Schoonmaker of Pittsburgh, in the *National Tribune* for the week of November 11. In reply I would inform you that he is dead. He died October 11th, eighty-six years of age. He died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis. I was with Colonel Schoonmaker in the Battle of Droop Mountain in the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company E.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

---

Chapel, W. Va., July 12, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I do not feel that I have health or the strength to meet you at the Droop Mountain Battlefield next week, much as I would love to. I hope you will be able to properly locate the field. If you could find some Confederate soldiers that were in the fight or native citizens who were acquainted might be helpful. As I remember the enemy were stationed in line of battle and we advanced on them. They soon left the patch, as I remember, during the hottest part of the fight. I was near the head of the Company where we joined Company A. Sergeant of Company A—I can't think of his name now—was killed near my side. Wheeler, Milt Rollyson and others were wounded near about the same time. When the enemy fled the company and regiment that were able followed in pursuit, I think, to Lewisburg. I confess that I was more concerned in what was going on than in noting the lay of the land. Please excuse the rambling. Hope you succeed.

Respectfully



GEORGE W BROWN  
COMPANY A



CAPT WM GRAMM  
COMPANY B  
(PROMOTED TO MAJOR)



CAPT JACOB M RIFE  
COMPANY C



CAPT. ALONZO M WILSON  
COMPANY E



CAPT. EDGAR B. BLUNDON  
COMPANY F  
(PROMOTED TO MAJOR)

MAJOR  
HEDGEMAN SLACK



FLETCHER C LANHAM  
COMPANY H



CAPT. FRANCIS MATHERS  
COMPANY I



CAPT JAMES S CASSADY  
COMPANY G



CAPT ELIAS POWELL  
COMPANY K



CAPT  
WM A WALTON  
COMPANY M



CAPT  
ISAAC M HULME  
COMPANY L

... MOUNTED INFANTRY, LATER CHANGED TO 7TH WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY



Coffeeville, Kansas, March 5, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

Your letter just to hand having been forwarded to me from Chapel. My recollection of the Droop Mountain Battle is indefinite. I think both regiments marched up the same road until near the summit, the 28th in the lead, near the top filed to the left until both regiments were the same distance on the mountain, when we faced and marched toward the enemy and soon found them. Our formation was Companies A, F, D, and C, after which I am not sure, only Company B was the extreme left. I do not remember any troops on our right. I am only guessing from my recollection, the engagement began not later than 10 A. M. and ended by noon, or before. I do not remember that there was a skirmish line. I always thought our company struck the most formidable point in the enemy's line. I would love to go over the field but do not now feel that I will be able. Anything I can do will be cheerfully done. With best wishes.

HENRY BENDER.

NOTE: Captain Bender was mistaken as to the time that the battle ended.

---

Progress, W. Va., April 20, 1927.

DEAR MR. SUTTON:

Your letter received the 19th inst.

The battle of Droop Mountain begun about 10 o'clock A. M. and lasted about one hour, as well as I remember.

I belonged to Company F, 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. My position battle ranks. General William Jackson's troops were in front, and I do not remember about the skirmish line. Ninety-two prisoners were captured, and do not know the number killed.

My health will not permit my attending a meeting of the committee.

Very truly yours,

I. O. ENGEL.

NOTE: He was mistaken as to the length of the engagement.

---

Cottageville, W. Va., May 9, 1927.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND:

## DRUOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

far from you. I would have answered sooner but my health is very poor and I have been ill for several weeks. Now, as I am feeling better, I will try and write a few lines, giving you the information desired.

We camped, as you will remember, in front of Joe Beard's at the foot of Droop Mountain. The next morning at dawn we broke camp and started across the fields toward a low gap in the mountain, in hope of gaining the pike behind the Confederates, on the west side of the mountain. We were led by Austin Brown, Ike Brown and Mose Stilley, former residents of that locality. Before reaching the low gap on top of the mountain we ran into the Confederates in the woods. The battle now begins, it being about ten o'clock. The 10th West Virginia was in front, followed by the 28th Ohio. When we struck the Confederates we faced south. The battle raged along the top of the mountain southward.

I was wounded near the pike, 60 or 80 yards distance from it, at the close of the battle. The Confederate who shot me was already wounded and was resting on a log. He shot me as I was on my way to try and disarm him. The other boys were wounded between the low gap and the place where the pike crosses the mountain. The battle ceased sometime between twelve and one o'clock. The dead and wounded were carried away to Joe Beard's home, where they had erected a temporary hospital.

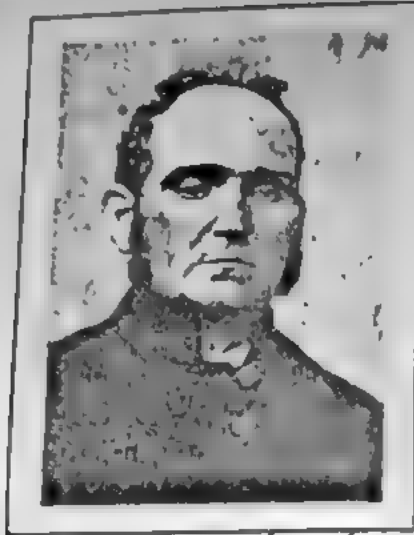
I am the only 10th West Virginia soldier left in Jackson County. Are W. F. and Silas Morrison still living?

I was glad to hear that Captain Bender was still alive, and pleased to know that you are well and strong. I have always felt indebted to you for saving my life on Bolivar Heights. As regards my family, we are all well, my children are scattered, some being in Ohio and some in West Virginia, while my eldest son lives in Florida. I would like to see you once more and talk over our old war days. Come over to Cottageville with Eugene Slaughter sometime. Drive over from Sutton. My faith is clear and strong in Christ and for a home in Heaven.

Write me soon again. Best regards to you and family.

Your old comrade,

SOME PARTICIPANTS  
IN THE BATTLE OF  
DROOP MOUNTAIN



A. W. GREGG  
CHAPLAIN  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



HENRY H. WITHERS  
MAJOR  
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. SUTTON  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. BAXTER  
ORDERLY SGT.  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INF.  
FELL LEADING  
LAST CHARGE



LIEUT. HENRY BEHL  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA.  
PROMOTED 1  
CAPTAIN  
FOR GALLANT



G. W. RAGSDALE



J. S. SWAGG

DRPOO MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see by the *National Tribune* where you inquire for information of any old comrade who was in the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was in that battle.

I belonged to the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry. The 14th Pennsylvania and the 2nd Virginia, 28th Ohio, Ewing's Battery of 1st Virginia Artillery, the 10th Virginia were sent around to the right to come in the rear of the fort. The brigade was dismounted at the foot of the mountain and we had orders to lay down and wait for orders.

I belonged to Company E, 14th Pennsylvania, and was wounded in my right arm, August 7, 1864, from which there is four inches of the bone removed. I am 81 years old, went to service when I was 16 years old. Was wounded at Moorefield, Virginia, also at Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in my finger.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

Soldiers Home Hospital, July 14, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see in the *National Tribune* that you wished to get in communication with some survivor of the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was a member of the 10th West Virginia Regiment Infantry and took part in that battle. We were on the right wing of our forces and soon as we located the enemy in thick timber we charged and routed them without any casualties on our part, but with heavy loss to the enemy. Until we came to an open space where the timber had been cut down. There we received a galling fire, and lost a number of men, all from one volley. We then took shelter behind logs and timber, and that is where Sergeant Bird Curry lost his life. We then deployed to the right and routed the Johnnies, and that ended the battle.

Yours truly,

L. S. CLOTHIER,

Co. A, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

Glassaway, W. Va., April 27, 1927.

MY DEAR MR. SUTTON:

I will try and answer you at this late date, as I was away at the arrival of your letter, but will now try to do so.

In the morning of the 6th of November, as the day of the battle,

early in the morning, the Union army began to move on the Southern army in the levels near hills below, that is coming down from Marlinton. They moved down very early. Pop shooting began about 8 o'clock. Jackson moved his besieged back up on the crown of the Droop, and at about 10 o'clock, skirmishing began, very lively, beginning on the eastern face of the Droop, continuing around southward near the Locust Creek Mill and also north to the Black Mountain. General Echols arrived with his force from the direction of Lewisburg, between 8 and 9 o'clock, and Colonel Cochran near the same time, with the 14th Virginia Cavalry. General Echols with most of his men occupied the southern part of the mountain, but Derrieks Battalion was placed on the north of the left wing of W. L. Jackson, and the 14th Cavalry was placed on the main top of the main mountain near the turnpike in rear of the artillery. General Jackson's artillery was placed north of the turnpike. His line of battle continued from the turnpike northward around to Hills Creek, including the line of Derrieks skirmishers, as stated commenced at about 1 o'clock. Fighting fiercer and fiercer began in earnest and ended at or near 4 or 4:30 in the evening.

General Averell moved his men very near the top of Droop, the men were surprised, but I was not. I told the General but I was too late with the news. That is why I was there in the charge to call Colonel Derrick to fall back. I lost my horse by it, and was captured to boot, but got away before they got off the mountain. I belonged to Company B, 26th Virginia Cavalry, W. L. Jackson's Brigade. I was a courier and then knew nearly all the southern lines of battle.

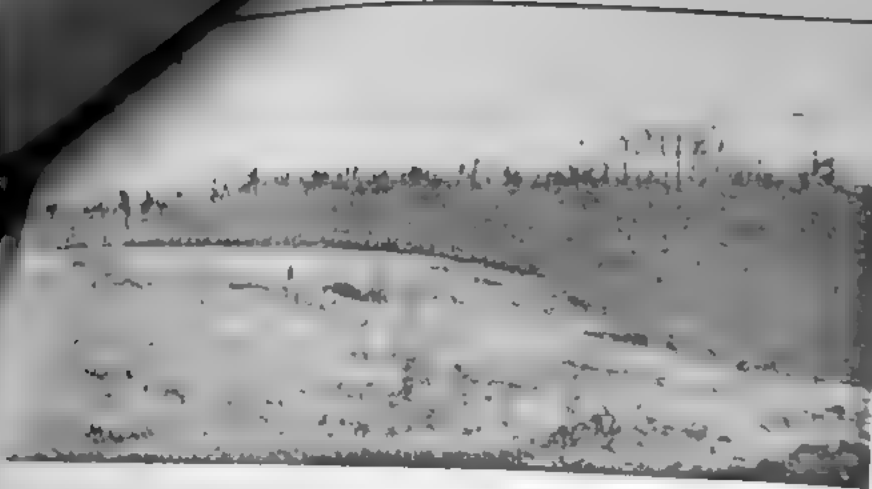
The regiments in front of the center, east of Droop Mountain, that I knew was there was the 14th Pennsylvania, the 8th and 16th Cavalry, the 10th West Virginia and 28th Ohio. Those two regiments done the heavy part of the fighting. All lines that I come in contact with that day had skirmish lines. As to prisoners caught on either side, I don't remember. But there was forty captured when I was. I might be able to be present and attend a meeting of the Committee at some time this year, I can't just say.

You must be light on considering or criticising my pencil scratching, as my eyes are very bad.

Yours respectfully,

MULTON BUTCHER.

NOTE The bones of the horse have been discovered



BLOODY ANGLE WHERE  
BAXTER FELL INSIDE  
ENEMY'S LINES WHILE  
LEADING HIS COMPANY  
ALSO SHOWING UPPER  
END OF LAKE.

THE OVER WHICH 10TH W. VA.  
28TH OHIO CROSSED AND  
WARD LINE OF BATTLE AT  
4:5 P.M.



WHERE THE FEDERAL INFANTRY  
STRUCK THE LEWISBURG PIKE  
AT LOWER END OF LAKE.



FORMATION OF 10TH W. VA.  
28TH OHIO AT EDGE OF FIELD  
5 P.M.



Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield



## Incidents

Your Commission has tried to so mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which we have planted and the maps which we have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Colonel Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a rail fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our Chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and they both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. The man who shot Barnett gave his life.

## DROOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

for the cause he espoused. George H. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. They occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few moments after this Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of courage and daring.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle, a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light he discovered for a certainty that the man was his brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newlon, many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew the lifeless body of his brother.

This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever, to our knowledge, been recorded in the annals of warfare.

After the battle, a young woman was observed going among the Confederates, looking intently into the face of each one. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George." She was the guest at the house of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davisson, of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, its heart rending scenes, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordnance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said "Damned if I know." Sisler said he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens,	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swacket,	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton,	Private	A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj. Moore,	Private	C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens, Private		A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swecker, Private		A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton, Private		A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj Moore, Private		C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Buckhammer, Private		C	Gunshot wound through left forearm
George Osborn, Corporal		C	Gunshot wound through right arm
Franklin Fisher, Private		D	Gunshot wound right thigh, middle third
John Queen, Private		D	Gunshot wound through left shoulder

# DROOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

M. Hours, Private.....	D	Gunshot wound through right arm above and below elbow
Mortimore Stalnaker, Sergt.....	E	Gunshot wound through little finger
John Forrester, Private.....	D	Gunshot wound right hand
James H. Dodd, Corporal.....	E	Gunshot wound in left knee joint retained
Wm. M. Barnett, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through right leg near knee joint
John Blagg, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound right ankle, serious involving joint
Newlon Squires, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound top of right shoulder
E. B. Wheeler, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left shoulder
Jacob Riffle, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left arm, shattered humerus
Silas M. Morrison, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through both arms
Addison Wilson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through middle, ring and little fingers
George C. Gillispie, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left leg
Milton Rollyson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left forearm
John Rollyson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through middle finger right hand
Coleman Wyant, Private.....	G	Gunshot wound in abdomen, flesh wound
M. A. Jeffries, Corporal.....	G	Gunshot wound in left thigh
Nimrod Weiss, Private.....	H	Gunshot wound in right side, perforating bowels
James M. Randle, Private.....	H	Gunshot wound in left thigh, lower third, flesh wound

## KILLED

B. Curry, Sergeant.....	A	Gunshot in head
G. I. Shaw, Private.....	A	Gunshot mortally
Chas. Bryson, Private.....	D	Gunshot in head
M. Shriever, Private.....	E	Gunshot mortally
John D. Baxter, O. S.....	F	Gunshot in bowels
Coleman Channel, Captain.....	H	Gunshot mortally
David Sanders, Private.....	H	Gunshot mortally
Wesley Pullens, Private.....	H	Gunshot mortally

Five killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly sergeant, Company F, killed.

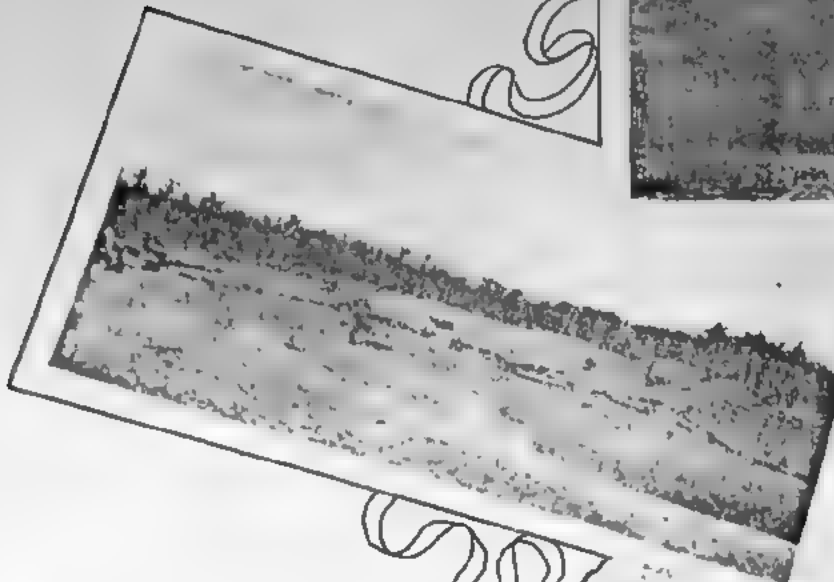
Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battlefield great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no greater attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battlefield, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living of either army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State.

LOCUST CREEK FROM  
BREAST WORKS



MCCARTY FARM, SHOWING  
GORE'S GROVE AND  
STATE ROAD #24.



MARKER ON OLD ROAD,  
WHERE MAJOR BAILEY FELL  
WHILE TRYING TO RALLY THE  
22<sup>ND</sup> VIRGINIA INFANTRY.  
STATE ROAD # 24



EWING'S BATTERY, 320 POLES  
EAST OF LURTY'S BATTERY, BY  
GROVE OF TREES.



VIEWING, 12 PM BREAST WORKS  
TO THE BOARD SHOWING YANKEE  
BARRACKS AND WHITE HOUSE TO LEFT  
GENERAL ARMY'S HEADQUARTERS  
CAN BE SEEN BEHIND THE BATTERY





the West Virginia Historical Society at a recent meeting, held in Charleston, passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That we, the West Virginia Historical Society earnestly commend the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for their labors and zeal, in acquiring title to the land on which the battle was fought, and for the work that has been done and the effort that is being made for the improvement and beautifying one of the greatest natural scenic views of the State; and that funds should be appropriated to carry on the work that the Commission has begun.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society are hereby extended to Governor Gore for the aid he has given the Battlefield Commission in its work, and

*Resolved*, further, That the memory of the brave men, of both armies, who fought the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, should be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and the battle's history, and that the State should no longer neglect this historic battlefield in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of her own sons, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the dead."

Your Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet, and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile in length, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should also be obtained and that an appropriation of \$35,000.00 may be made for the payment of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement as rapidly as possible, and we would further recommend that the marketable timber on the lands be sold and that the ridge, hereinbefore referred to, should be made accessible for flying machines; and also that the water of the lake should be impounded; and that suitable driveways and other attractive features be prepared as early as possible and that ultimately a great park may be established and maintained that would be equal at least to those in other states.

Your Commission would further recommend that your Excellency call the attention of the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schoonmaker, and the 28th Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battlefield that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. D. SUTTON,  
N. F. KENDALL,  
R. F. KIDD,  
M. M. HARRISON,  
A. L. HELMICK.

## The Droop Mountain Battle

*(A paper prepared by John D. Sutton)*

After the country was freed from Indian invasions and Virginia became established, the people began to look more to their financial affairs and public interests. It was not long until those west of the Alleghenys became jealous of their eastern brethren. Tobacco was the money crop of the east, raised by slave labor, whilst those west of the mountains depended for many years upon furs and ginseng as their principal commodity in trade. And as it has been from the beginning of time taxation began to be agitated. The great body of the east escaped very largely from their equal share of the burden, but controlled very largely the political affairs of the state. The western portion of the state was powerless. Their only relief was in separation. The Civil War afforded them that opportunity; hence when the war came on, 32,000 of the young men of Western Virginia joined the Union forces. Though they were living in a slave state the great majority refused to answer the call of Virginia, and when the 20th of June, 1863, came, and West Virginia was admitted as a state into the union, the defenders of the new state were determined to sustain and defend the state at whatever cost of blood and treasure. The south was as fully determined to retain the territory of the state, and to prevent the rending of the state—a state for which we all have the most profound love and respect. But a sacrifice had to be made and the battle was joined—a battle of separation. The best blood of Virginia and West Virginia, men who had met on many bloody battlefields prior to the great Battle of Droop Mountain, soldiers inured to hardship and dangers, not soldiers of fortune, not soldiers for spoil, but men in whose breasts was a living principle, a principle implanted in their youth by their fathers. At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force left Beverly on November 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Wm. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force near Mill Point on the morning of the 14th and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there

General Skeen was the lieutenant of the company. He appeared to be the purchasing agent of the County Court, as he paid the bills for the army and took receipts therefor. On the date of June 25, 1861, he rendered an itemized account under expenses incurred on march of "Pocahontas Rescues," amounting to \$68.68. It was allowed and \$25 paid on account. He notes a balance of \$43.68 due him, and I doubt if it was ever paid to him.

The big item of expense was \$37.42 for shoes—nineteen pairs bought on May 23, at Philippi, from J. P. Thompson. The other items include bacon, tallow, flour, meal, horse feed, gloves, hats, cotton cloth, calico, socks, shirts, blankets and whatnot.

On May 20, at J. W. Marshall's store he bought a pair of gloves for Captain Stofer at 25 cents and six combs for privates for \$1.00. Also 2 cravats, \$1; 2 flannel shirts, \$2; and 2 more pair gloves 50 cents.

On May 22, at Beverly, from A & B Crawford, two hats for \$3.25. From J. Burket, also at Beverly, pair of shoes at \$2 and 2 pairs socks 30 cents. On the same date from E. B. Bucher 12 1/2 pounds of tallow for \$1.25 and 52 1/2 pounds of bacon at 14c, \$8.35.

On May 24, Elder Douglas was paid \$1.33 for supper, lodging and breakfast for 13 persons.

On May 25, \$2.50 is paid Jno. B. Curin for Giliham tactics.

On May 17, Captain Stofer certifies that an account of Wm. H. Stanker for 8 yards of calico, 12 yards of beach cotton, 8 3/4 yards of cotton drilling and one made shirt, in all \$1.25 is correct and necessary for the use of said company.

Mr Skeen started off line to keep a daily report on the progress of the "Pocahontas Rescues" but I guess he got too busy, for after three days, he gets in the middle of a page.

In speaking of this march, the old soldiers referred to it as the "Tin Cup Campaign." A cup was all the reward furnished them. They provided their own arms.

The cavalry referred to was Captain Andrew McNeel's Company. On their return from Philippi, this company was disbanded and the men joined the 11th Virginia—Bath Squad and Captain Wm L. McNeel's company. Captain J. W. Marshall's company, 1st Virginia Cavalry.

On the return of the Pocahontas Cavalry the company was disbanded and the men with a number of additional men up company I, 25th Virginia Infantry. J. H. McLaughlin, Captain of 1st Lieutenant.

This company was engaged in the following battles: Philippi, McDowell, Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Seven Days, Fight around Richmond, Slaughter Mountain, Second Manassas, Bristow Station, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Second Winchester, Gettysburg, Mine Run, and the Wilderness. At the Wilderness the 25th was captured; the Pocahontas Rescues and replacements had been reduced to seventeen men; of this seventeen, eleven lived through the war, six dying in prison.

The last member of Company I, to pass over that I know of was Captain J. W. Mathews, of Anthony's Creek, who died about twelve years ago.

Captain Stofer came from the Valley of Virginia. He was a lawyer, and he served as commonwealth's attorney for Pocahontas a number of terms. He had been a soldier in the Mexican war, and fought in a number of battles. My recollection is that Captain Stofer was not wounded in the war between the states until the battle of Cross Keys when he fell with five bullet holes in him. Every one of these wounds was considered mortal, but he recovered and survived the war some twenty years. As a child, I remember him as a friendly,

courtly gentleman, known in his wide circle of friends as the "Count."

General William Skeens served as clerk of both the county and circuit courts. He was succeeded just before the war by the late William Curry. He was a resident attorney at Huntersville for many years. He was elected Attorney General of the State of Virginia.

I certainly do wish that General Skeens had written up the "Tin Cup Campaign" day by day, instead of quitting off on the record the evening of the third day.

You have got to hand it to the General that he was a considerable of a manager to march an army of fifty six men some ninety miles, and back on a campaign of several weeks, at a cost to Pocahontas County of only \$69.68.

After the war Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law, etc., he must swear that he had not aided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not phase Captain Stofer a bit. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work where he left off after four years service in the army of the Confederate States of America. The

grand jury indicted him for perjury, and he appealed to the Supreme Court, where the case dragged along for years. I presume that the case against the Captain just naturally went by the board when the new state went democratic in 1870, a new constitution adopted and the rights of the southern sympathizers restored. I will look that case up some day when I have the time. I have the impression that Count Stofer was defended by Spencer Dayton, a native of New England, father of the late Judge A. G. Dayton, of Philippi, United States District Judge. I do know that Mr Dayton successfully defended the numerous Confederate soldiers who were indicted for murder after the war, in this county.

My friend, the late Hugh P. McLaughlin, always took delight in relating his experiences as a boy on this "Tin Cup Campaign." Some where along the road to Philippi they came to a farm where there was a mowing machine with its tongue propped up, in a shed. Few of them had ever seen a mower, and word was passed down the ranks that it was a cannon. One boy took a good look at it, and remarked on the length of the ramrod!

*Pocahontas Times*  
1/16/41

## DROOP MT. STATE PARK

On top of picturesque Droop Mountain, about four miles from the little town of Hillsboro, in West Virginia, CCC Camp Price, Co. 2,598 have done some wonderful work on the State Park.

It was on this site that the greatest battle of the Civil War in West Virginia was fought about 72 years ago. It is said that the only brass cannon that this part of the confederate army had lies buried in a swamp within a stone's throw of the camp. Although 72 years have elapsed since the great battle, many signs and memoirs of it are left. While rambling through the woods one may find the old rock breastworks which were used by the Confederate and Union soldiers alike.

About three miles from the camp there is a large cave in which soldiers manufactured gun powder. It is now known as "Saltpetre Cave." Occasionally old grave markers are found.

Although there are signs posted along Route 219 showing the position of the great battlefield, it has not yet received much attention from tourists because of the seemingly impossibility of exploration, as not much can be seen from the highway. This is an ideal place for picnic's, as the CCC boys have built chimneys for camp cooking, and seats and tables, etc. and have made the site of the battle one of the better known parks in West Virginia. Roads and trails have been built that lead to views that are entrancing.

Visitors are always welcome.

11-3

## BATTLE OF BARTOW - October 3, 1861

There were three battles known as the battles of the Greenbrier Ford, which took place at Travelers Repose, now known as Bartow. One was October 3, 1861, one Oct. 31, 1861, the other Dec. 12, 1861. Since the first of these battles, the one of October 3, was the biggest one, that is the one we shall consider in this report.

The first year of the war saw five battles in the Upper Tract, as upper Pocahontas was usually called at that time. The reason being that the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike crossed the Greenbrier Valley at this place and it was one of the most important thoroughfares in the nation at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was well served by stage coach lines and it formed a favorite route for persons from the middle west who wished to go to Washington and other eastern points.

The political significance of Western Virginia seceding from Virginia made the passage of the Alleghenies the most important spots to the military operations on both sides.

The Federal army had already occupied Tygarts Valley in Randolph, and the Confederates hurried armies into the Greenbrier Valley in Pocahontas. Their foremost post was at Travelers Repose. The camp was called Camp Bartow in honor of Col Francis S. Bartow of the 7th Georgia Regiment who was killed in the battle of Bull Run in July 1861. The camp was commanded by Gen. H. R. Jackson of Georgia, who no doubt named it in honor of his friend.

Since the building of a small town on this old battle field, the postoffice was known as Travelers Repose was changed to Bartow.

The Federal Army was camped at White's Top of Shavers Fork at an elevation of about 4,100 feet. At about 20 miles east of them on the top of the main Allegheny was camped the Confederates at an elevation of about 4,100 feet. The new soldiers were placed on these high tops. They lay there for months in the winter of 1861-62. They had but one skirmish. That was when the Federal army moved to cross Cheat at night and had gotten lost.



Camp Bartow was at the foot of the mountains. All three on the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike. The Yeagers, Arbogasts, Slavens, Burners and Houchins who owned this section of the county were all secessionists. In fact there was hardly a Union man in the whole of Greenbank District. No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported.

Gen. Reynolds at Whites Top had on Sept. 13, protected the left flank of the army at Elkwater, and he had kept Loring from passing so he decided to do some passing himself. He decided that he would march an army over and surround and subdue Staunton. He ordered his men to prepare four days rations each, and on the morning of Oct. 3, 1861 at one o'clock A. M. he put his forces in motion and they marched down the mountain to Durbin. He had about 5,000 troops and 6 batteries of big guns. His forces were: Howes' Battery, Loomis' Battery, Michigan Volunteer Battery, Daums' Battery, Virginia Volunteer Artillery.

24th, 25th, and 32 Ohio Regiments 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Indiana Reg. of Infantry. Robinsons Ohio Cavalry. Greenfield Pennsylvania Cavalry, Brackman's Indiana Cavalry.

Opposed to them were the Third Arkansas, First Georgia, Twelfth Georgia, Twenty-third Virginia, Rices Battery, Schumakers Battery, and the 31st Virginian of which Captain J. C. Arbogasts Greenbank Company was made up of local people (Hope to have a complete list of this Co. soon)

The Federals got to Durbin about sun up and saw an advance guard under Col. Albert Johnson in front of them in or above the narrows which separates Frank from Durbin. They set up a cannon or two and fired at them. Johnson fell back and the Federals marched up the road and through the fields. Johnson had his horse shot and killed in this engagement. He held the column up for an hour and it was not until his army had made a flanking movement started to his right that he retired to the rail road at Camp Bartow.

The Federal army placed two batteries in front of the Confederate breastworks. These batteries were 6 guns in the meadow about half way from the Burner house to the East Fork and 2 guns on the other side of the turnpike. The Confederate batteries were on a low hill just behind Travelers Repose, where there are embankments still plainly to be seen.

In addition Lieutenant Wooding placed a gun on the Turnpike directly in front of Travelers Repose, from which he fired 90 rounds that day point-blank at the enemy across the river bottom. The big guns kept up a steady firing from seven in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. A rifle cannon the Confederates expected to do great damage was a disappointment for after the first few rounds the ball stuck and could not be dislodged until Sergt. Timothy H. Stamps could get there from Monterey. There was more powder burned in the big guns that day than at any other battle in the mountains. It was a great day for noise.

But all this cannon firing was meant to cover up infantry work. It will be remembered that the turnpike is an east and west road and that there is a north and south road paralleling the river. This Huntersville road comes to the turnpike at Travelers Repose.

Gen. Reynolds proceeded to send infantry against both ends of the Confederate breastworks. It looks like one could hardly call it a flanking movement for these detachments did not attempt to swing in wide circles. It was the plan to let the artillery keep everything hot along the turnpike, while his forces were to attack both ends of the Confederate position.

Jackson evidently expected a wide flung encirclement for he had sent Johnson up the river for more than a mile, and he was clear above the place that the Federals attempted to attack.

Jackson entrusted the defense of his left (down the river) to Colonel Rust and his brigade. It will be remembered that the Federals had a right large order in that they had to cross a wide open field, ford the river and climb a steep hill to reach the Federal camp.

first marched down the road toward Greenbank until he had drawn away from the river and was on an elevation overlooking the river. He then marched by the end of the breastworks and took a station between the river and the breastworks, but before he could form his men, the Federal batteries commenced a rapid fire, and a regiment of infantry left the road at the Burner homestead and marched across the meadow; waded the river and climbed the hill. The Arkansas troops, however, met them at the crest of the hill and the regiment of infantry went back and marched up the hill on the other side of the road. This movement of the Federal troops moving first to the right, then to the left, puzzled the Arkansas commander. There seemed to be a discussion as to what the orders were. I was warned afterwards that there had been a misunderstanding of orders.

Col. Richardson saying. "My regiment is to attack on my right." "Not at all", said Col. Wilder, "You are to attack the enemys right". This confusion of orders marked the turning point of the battle. Now both regiments were in the same place, and it therefore permitted the whole power of the Confederate artillery to be directed to one place. The federals could not face the fire and retreated in great confusion. Both regiments went into the woods at the north of the turnpike and added to the confusion already in that quarter.

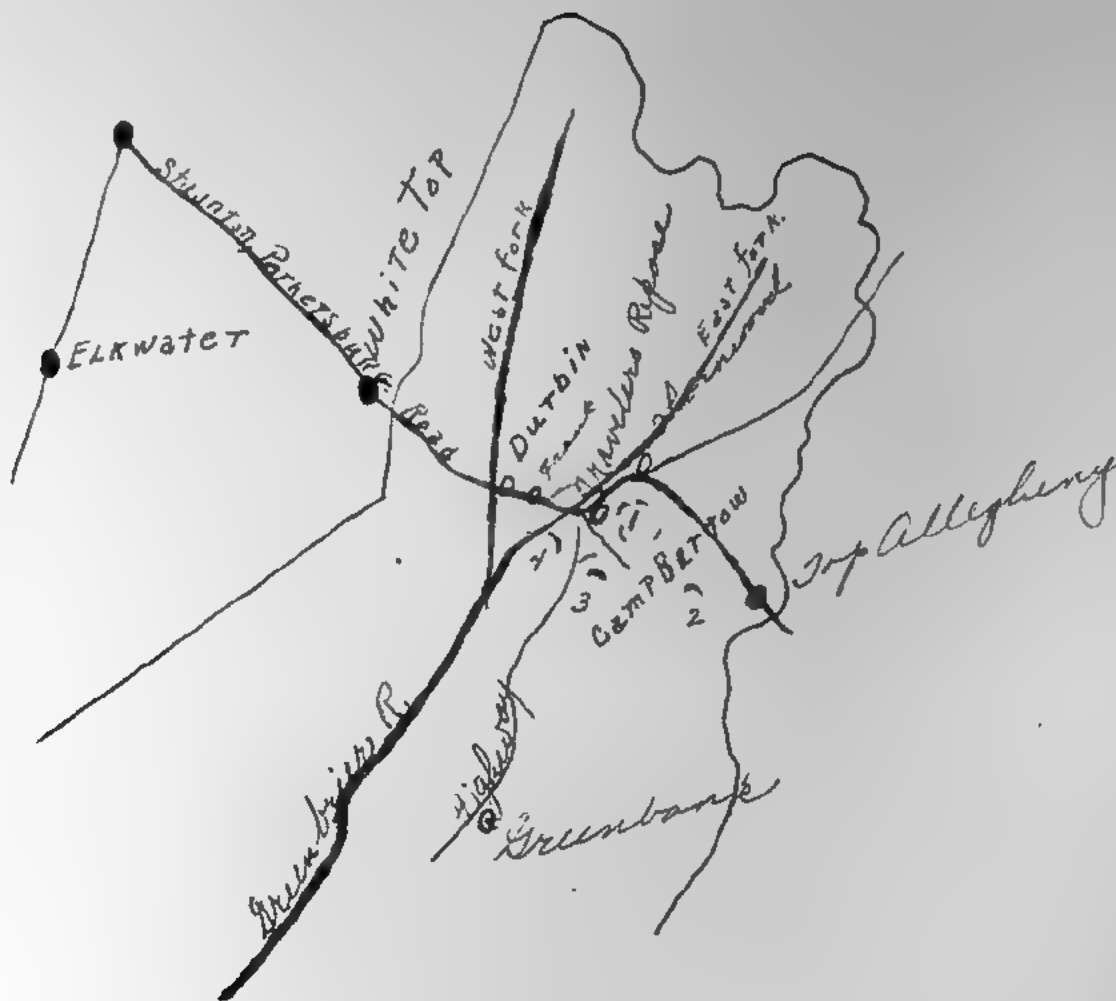
The Confederates called this one of the greatest victories of that year. The Federals called it a reconnaissance in force.

Losses: killed and wounded, Federals 43, Confederates 52, including 13 missing.

Losses: lost one stand of colors.

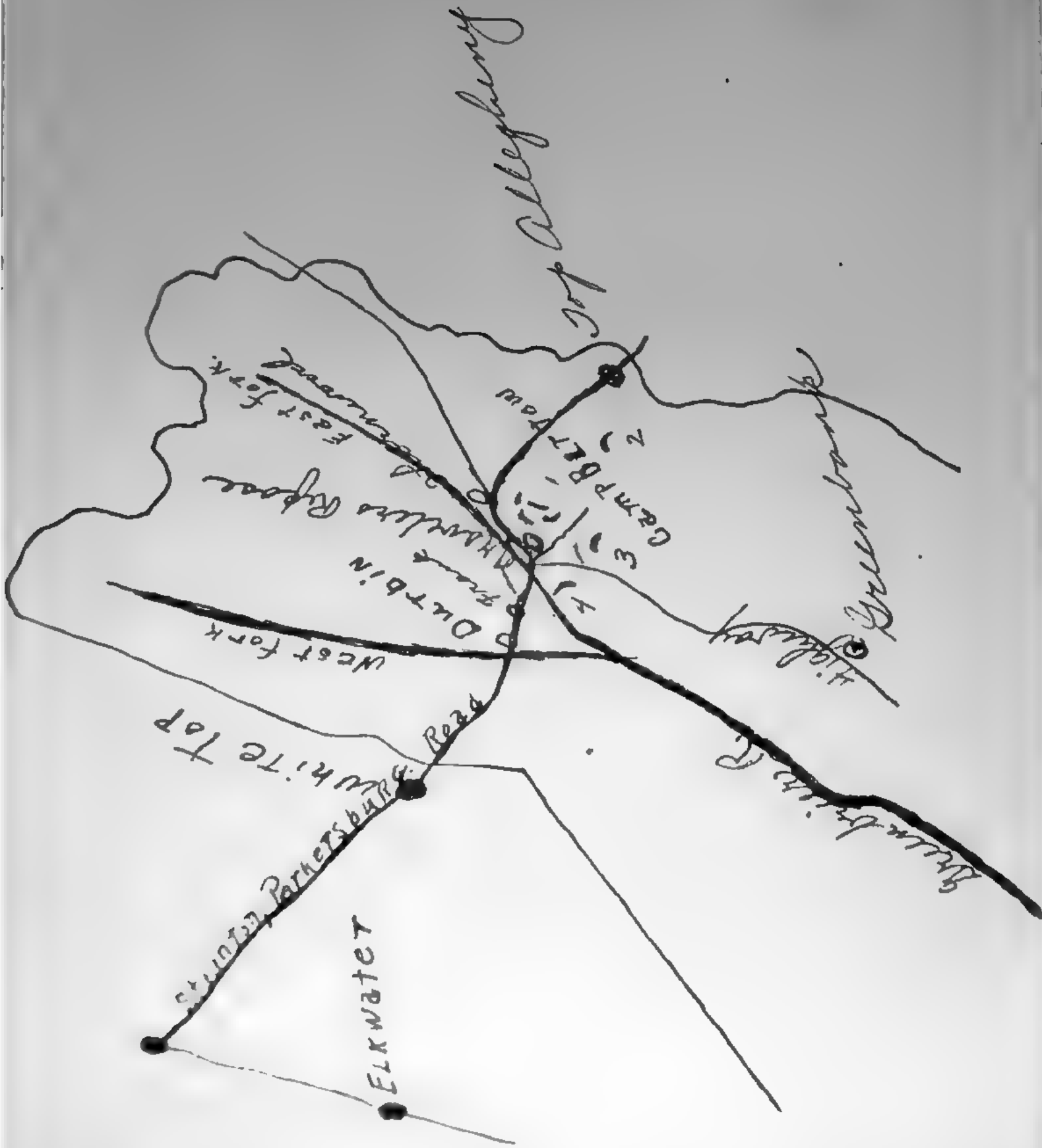
Sheet 6  
 0-3

Guaranteed Survey  
 Civil & Survey, P.T.E.  
 Feb. 28, 1900



Field from where the  
 Federals fought.

- Union Fortifications
- Confederate Fortifications
- Fortifications as they  
 were placed on hills  
 1, 2, 3, 4, facing  
 the turnpike. I was  
 at there and say last week,  
 and then heard, who now  
 are no Travelers Rest, should  
 be called Fortifications which  
 were placed on hills



Field from where the  
Federal's fought.

- Union fortifications
- Confederate fortifications
- Fortifications as they  
were placed on hills

1, 2, 3, 4, facing  
the turnpike. I was  
up there one day last week,  
and Mr. Beard, who now  
owns Travelers Rest, showed  
me these fortifications, which  
are still plainly visible.

BATTLES OF MARLINS BOTTOM AND  
HUNTERSVILLE

There use to be a covered bridge at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) across the Greenbrier River. This was one of the bridges that came through the Civil War. Armies marched back and forth over this bridge and it figured in battles and retreats, but as it happened, never but once was an attempt made to destroy it an that time Mrs. Margaret Pooge Price was able to scatter the fire. That was during Averill's raid.

Years after the war, Andrew Price saw an old Confederate soldier, James Schisler of Greenbrier County examining the walls of the bridge. He said that he was looking for the loopholes he had used during the war.

So far as is known there was but one time that they had a battle near Marlins Bottom, though it was for months a fortified camp. The local people on either side did not understand what the controversy was about. All they knew was that there were soldiers stationed at the bridge and suddenly the bottom was full of blue coats, and that there was much firing and cavalry charging, that the Confederates retreated and the Yankees went away.

Dr. George B. Moffett in telling about it afterwards said, "Well, I thought I had a fairly fleet horse, but with all those bullets flying around me, it seemed like Gizzard could not run at all."

The day that the Yankees and Confederates sowed the bottom with minnie balls was January 7, 1862.

The war broke out in 1861 and for a time Pocahontas was the objective of both armies. The strength of our militia (the 127 Regiment) was 650 at the beginning of the war yet in June 1861 over 500 had entered the Confederate army from Pocahontas. Robert E. Lee spent about two months here in the summer of 1861, between Huntersville and Linwood. He had the Old Toll House at the end of the bridge at Marlins Bottom as his headquarters. It is still standing and was a few years ago made into a Tea Room.



whereabouts in this county have been traced by letters he wrote while here..

At Marlinton that winter the 25th Ohio was camped and with them was Major George Webster. General Milroy was in command of the forces and conceived a plan to let Major Webster have a chance to lead a small army into the Greenbrier Valley by way of Old Field Fork of Elk River to Marlins Bottom. It having been about two weeks since he had found the upper road blocked at Top Allegheny.

Webster entered upon his campaign with enthusiasm and he executed orders with neatness and dispatch. His little army was made up of 400 soldiers from his own regiment. They marched by the Elkwater fort and there he picked up 300 men from the Second West Virginia, and at Linwood he was joined by 38 of Brecken's Cavalrymen. He had loaded up his supply wagons and the army of 738 men moved south into the country of the enemy. He left Marlinton December 31, 1861. On the evening of Jan. 2, 1862 he reached the place where the Crooked Fork of Elk turns to encircle the upper branch of the Gauley R. There they found the timber barricade cut into the narrow defile the fall before when Lee's army withdrew from the waters of the Elk to the waters of the Greenbrier. The trees were all cut for more than a mile. It was impossible to get his wagons through without losing too much time, so he left them there with fifty men to guard them. He took the path to the left on J.C. Gay's side of the blockade and he climbed the mountain early in the morning of Jan. 3, 1862.

When Webster got to the top of Elk Mountain on the Gay place he could look down the valley of the Greenbrier and see the tents of the company who had started to winter on the Ridge Patch, that part of Marlinton now occupied by the Union Tanning Co. Another company (Federal) was camped down the river on the west side where the old Price Place is.

Marlins Bottom was fortified against invasion from the north. The old road came up a hill and dropped down to the bridge head. On top of this hill was a cannon. A part of the fortification can still be seen. On the east of the river on the bank was a trench of the length of what is now the Tannery row of tenement houses, with a ditch on the east side where the road topped the bank from the Marlin ford. These fortifications covered the approach for a distance of about 400 yards, and made the road ex-

posed to the invasion from Elk Mountain, through the loyal village of Edray,

from Drinnon's Ridge to the rebel settlement of Marlins Bottom. At the mouth of Stony Creek, he stopped long enough to send a squad of cavalry across the river, and they galloped down the east bank of the river and to the Huntersville road firing and acting outrageous to attract attention while Websters infantry came on down the west of the road. The cavalry coming in behind the Confederates caused them to stampede. Most of them made across the bridge to the west and fled into the woods. This engagement while a very noisy one resulted in no loss by death or wounding on either side. All they lost was their wind. It hardly halted the advance of the Federals. They crossed the bridge and advanced on to Huntersville driving before them some mounted Confederates. Huntersville had seen some big armies during the year of 1861, and when Lee left everything in charge of Loring, the Confederates made Huntersville their headquarters for all their activities in this part of the country.

Webster had left Captain Johnson with 50 men to guard the wagons at the barricade on Ellis. Now he left Captain Williams with 50 men to guard Greenbrier Bridge.

Then Webster arrived at the ford of Knopps Creek, near the home of Joe H. Buzzard, he found the Confederate cavalry on the south side of the creek in a level field, their line extending up and over a hilly spur that jutted out into the field. Webster sent a detachment up the mountain to turn the confederate's right while the rest of his command marched upon their front and firing became general on both sides. But the confederates seeing that the Federals were encircling them fell back and formed a new line of battle on Cummings Creek near Huntersville. The picket coming in from Marlins Bottom had reported the Federal forces to be about 5000 men.

Webster crossed the creek at Buzzards, topped the little spur and finding that the Confederates were in battle line on Cummings Creek sent two companies to his right through the woods, and the Broken Cavalry to the left toward the creek. The rest of the troops advanced forward. After some firing the Confederates mounted their horses and retreated to the town. As the Federals entered Huntersville the Federals entered Huntersville on the east side the Confederates left by the east side. When Webster marched into Huntersville he found it deserted. Not a soul was living there. The courthouse, jail, stores and houses were all vacant. War had come too close to them, and the county seat and largest town was abandoned by its population. It remained in this condition for most of the war, and the soldiers used the Presbyterian church for a camp, and the houses were abused. Windows

were broken, doors left swinging. An old timer said that Huntersville which had been the scene of so much social life and gayety became one of the dreariest sights he had ever seen.

The people had abandoned the town because they had been told by the Confederates that if they were beaten the Federals would burn the town. When the town was captured Jan 3, 1862, large stores of army supplies were found stored there. There were 350 barrels of flour, 150,000 pounds of beef, 30,000 pounds of salt and large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice, bacon and clothing. Not being able to move anything fire was set to the stores and they were destroyed. The Confederates had fallen back to Monterey Va. The Federal loss was one man shot in the arm. The Confederates loss was one man killed and 7 wounded. The number of Confederates engaged was about 400 regular cavalrymen, and several hundred citizens recruited the day before, and two companies of infantry. In the meantime, at Camp Baldwin on the Allegheney, Gen. Edward Johnson was filled with apprehension. His scouts had reported the forward movement of the Federals to be about 5,000 men and Johnson thought they would circle around by Huntersville, Frost, and Crab Bottom and attack him from his base at Monterey.

But having destroyed the confederate supplies at Huntersville Webster turned and marched his men back to his wagons that night in the driving rain, having fought two engagements and marched something like 28 miles on foot. That was a big days work. It took one and one-half hours to drive the Confederates a mile, and he was in Huntersville two hours destroying supplies.

It was no wonder the local people did not understand the movements for even the Confederate commanders did not know what was happening to them. Websters return from Huntersville was what they had not counted on. They went on the basis that a big army was on the move, and expected it to march on to White Sulphur, Millboro, or Monterey. But the little Federal army marching so jaunty with their young commander had no notion of penetrating farther into the strongholds of the Confederates than any Union army had reached up to that time. Webster had swept the country clean as he went along, and had extricated his army with much neatness and dispatch.

On Jan. 6, 1862 they were back in their old headquarters at Huttonsville. It was as fine a campaign as ever a set of youngsters put over. Webster was there and back again

with all his men and horses intact, having carried fire and sword into a hostile country, and marched 106 miles in six days.

He threw a scare into the Confederates that made their lines quiver from Huntersville to Winchester and from Top Allegheney to Staunton.

Scouts rode headlong in every direction carrying dispatches. They seem to have agreed on the strength of the Federal army as being 5,000 men instead of the 738 that it actually was.

From--1928 West Virginia Blue Book

by Andrew Price



Therita S. Dilley  
March 11, 1940

CHAPTER 4 - SECTION 4b-3

Page 1

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

BATTLES OF MILL POINT AND

DROOP MOUNTAIN

In November 1863 there were no Confederate forces of any size anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley. That was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, some 170 miles, by between four and five thousand soldiers, protecting Virginia from attack from the west.

General Kelly, in command of the department of West Virginia, gave orders to General Averill at Beverly and General Duffie at Gauley Bridge to send armies to meet at Lewisburg and drive the Confederates out of the Greenbrier Valley.

Averill came into Pocahontas by the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike and turned south at Travelers Repose. At that time the Confederate troops were stationed as follows: At Glade Hill in the upper part of the county was Captain W. L. McNeel's Co., At Edray, Captain J. W. Marshall was in charge of a detachment watching the Marlins Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike; Col. W. W. Arnett had a regiment at Marlins Bottom in comfortable log houses getting ready to winter there; Colonel W. L. Jackson had the main part of his regiment the 19th Virginia Cavalry at Mill Point; Col. W. P. Thompson was away with a part of his regiment on an expedition to Nicholas County and had gotten as far as Cold Knob in Greenbrier Co., Gen. Echols had the main part of the troops at Lewisburg.

McNeel's Co., at Glade Hill discovered the Advance of Averill and sent a messenger to warn Arnett at Marlins bottom of the Advance. Averill moved swiftly, and but for this courier getting through would have surprised the Confederates in their camps. As it was the McNeel Soldiers got too close and four were captured, and John Adam McNeel had his horse shot and he got a broken leg out of it. The main camp of McNeel's Co. was cut off and they escaped by going up Galfords Creek and crossing the Allegheny Mountains to the waters of Back Creek.